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THE BANKRUPTCY BILL.

THE annual introduction of a bill for the reform of our law of bankruptcy has of late years become as much a matter of course as the Queen's Speech or the Chancellor of the Exchequer's financial statement. Not the less, however, on account of the regularity of its recurrence, but rather the more, shall we rejoice if its "periodic time" (to borrow a mathematical expression) which we have come to regard as a "constant quantity" be reduced to zero; in other words, if this exceedingly tiresome subject be finally disposed of.

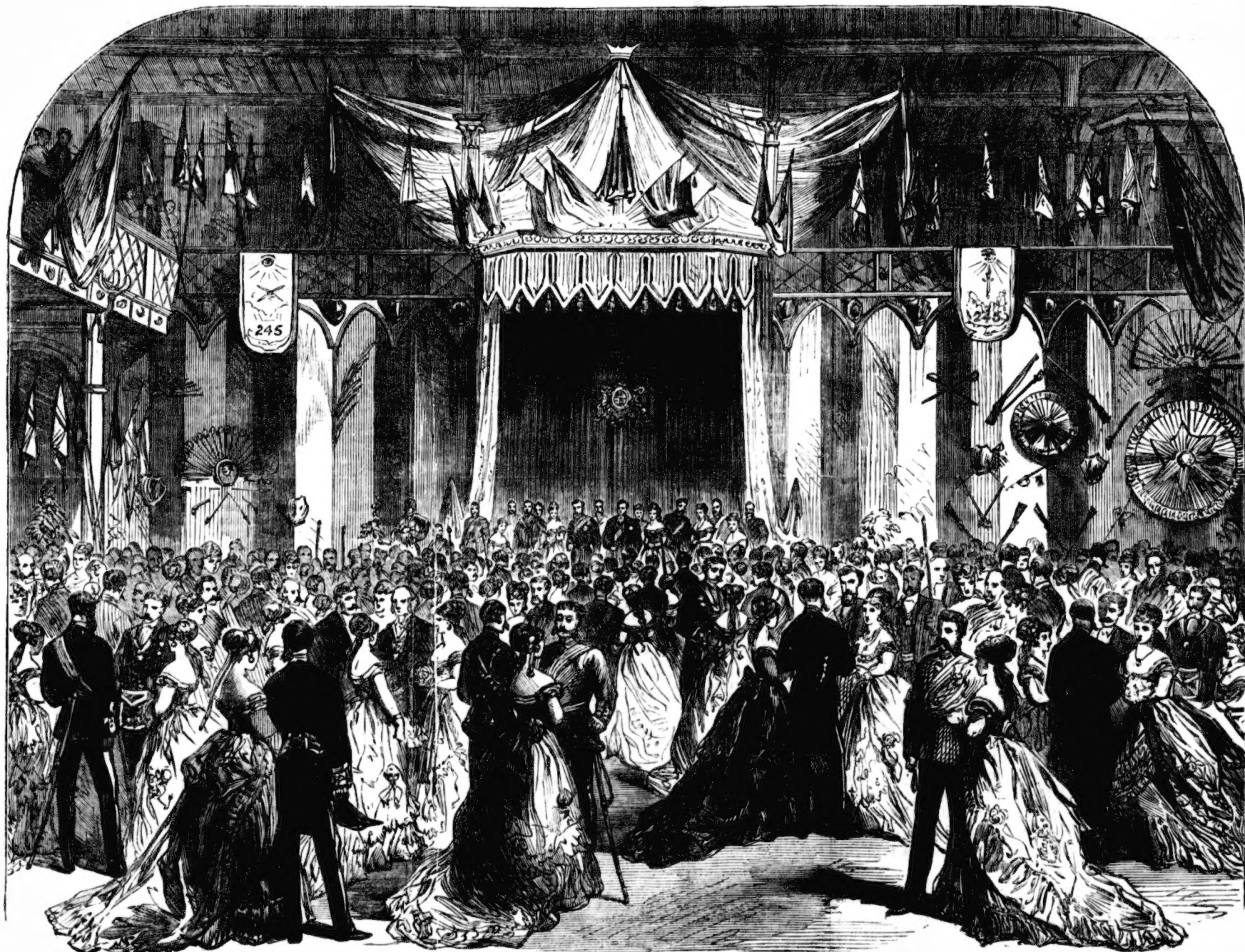
The bill of last year, our readers may probably recollect, proved, as we ourselves predicted, abortive; in fact, even a cursory glance at that voluminous document sufficed to assure us that, in the then pressing state of public business, that measure was destined to perish ingloriously in embryo; for what chance was there that a Parliament itself moribund—in the very agony, in fact, of terminating its own existence by giving birth to a measure which, it was anticipated, would effect the most important reform of the Constitution—would devote the time necessary to bring to maturity the elaborate but less generally interesting production of Lord Cairns? The fate of the present measure, however, seems likely to be otherwise; indeed, we shall scarcely, we think, be deemed presumptuous if we hazard the opinion that it is certain, in some shape or other, to pass into law, and probably without much mutilation of its present pro-

portions. It has much to recommend it to the favourable consideration of the House of Commons; it is introduced by the law officers of the Crown, who, it is understood, have taken into their counsel the leading representatives of the various chambers of commerce throughout the kingdom, so that it may be said to have already the support and approbation of the mercantile community; last, but assuredly not least, among its merits may be stated the fact that it is not nearly so cumbersome in shape as most of its predecessors. It contains only 135 clauses, whilst there were 503 in the bill of last Session and 479 in Mr. Walpole's bill of 1867; and this minority alone augurs well for the simplicity of the machinery to be employed and the absence of unnecessary verbiage. We will endeavour as briefly as possible to make our readers acquainted with the chief characteristics of the scheme.

The first noticeable feature is the appointment of a Chief Judge in Bankruptcy in lieu of the present Commissioners, who are to be pensioned off forthwith. He is to preside over "the London Bankruptcy Court," the jurisdiction of which will comprise the city of London and all such parts of the metropolis as are situated within the district of a metropolitan county court. From this it would seem, though we can only infer it from the absence of any express provision for the purpose, that the jurisdiction in bankruptcy of the County Court Judges within the limits of the London district

will be superseded by that of the new Chief Judge. The business of the country district courts (which we may observe *en passant* are seven in number) will be ultimately wound up and transferred to the County Courts, a result which was also to have been effected by Lord Cairns's bill.

The Court of Appeal in Bankruptcy, as at present constituted—i.e., the Lord Chancellor and the Lords Justices—will be replaced by the Court of Common Law to which the new Chief Judge is attached, with the House of Lords as a court of final appeal; but the power of appeal to the latter appears to depend on the leave of the Judge; whereas Lord Cairns had provided that "a decision or order of the Court of Appeal in Chancery should, if that Court considers the matter of sufficient difficulty or importance to require the decision of the House of Lords, but not otherwise, be subject to appeal to the House of Lords." Now, as a Common Law Court is substituted for the Court of the Lords Justices, we do not see why the consent of the former should not be deemed quite as essential as that of the latter. We may observe here that, as all the most important bankruptcy cases have hitherto been tried before the Lord Chancellor or the Lords Justices, it seems at first sight rather an anomaly that they should be superseded by Common Law Judges, especially considering that questions of trusteeship, now more than ever intimately associated with bankruptcy proceedings, are those with which Equity Judges are assumed



PRINCE ARTHUR IN IRELAND: GRAND MASONIC BALL IN THE EXHIBITION BUILDING, DUBLIN.

to be peculiarly conversant. We last year drew attention to the excessive number of officials through whom, under the guise of assignees, messengers, &c., bankrupt estates were compelled to run the gauntlet, in the course of which it not unfrequently happens that the bankrupt is stripped, ostensibly for the benefit of his creditors, but in reality to swell the gains of a horde of professional harpies. The present measure, we are glad to notice, advances a step in the right direction, for the whole army of assignees, taxing masters, messengers, *et hoc genus omne*, is to be annihilated by a stroke of the pen—not, however, of course, without due provision being made for vested life interests. "The trustee" (under which denomination more than one person may be included), who is to be appointed by resolution at the first general meeting of creditors, will have all and more than the power at present possessed by the "creditors' assignee" over the bankrupt's estate; but he will be subject to the supervision of a "committee of inspection," consisting of not more than five creditors, and must conform in all respects to the directions of the creditors assembled in general meeting; he must also transmit a statement of accounts to an officer to be called the "Comptroller in Bankruptcy," who will occupy the same relative position with regard to the trustee that the present "official assignee" does to the creditors' assignee.

With regard to the class of transactions so commonly tainted with fraud, and known as "voluntary settlements," we are glad to see that the framers of the bill propose to substitute an arbitrary limit—viz., *two years previous to bankruptcy*—for the present rather indefinite period described in sec. 126 of the Act of 1849, as "the time of the bankrupt being insolvent," an expression which has given rise to endless discussion and been productive of most inconvenient and unexpected results. Any such settlement of property is now to be void if made within two years of the settler becoming bankrupt, unless the parties who claim under it can prove that at the time of making it he was able to pay all his debts. Similarly fraudulent preferences of creditors are to be rendered invalid if made *within three months* of bankruptcy. Amongst the few provisions not contained in former Acts may be mentioned those which seek to render any member of the House of Commons who is adjudged bankrupt incapable of sitting and voting for the space of one year, and at the expiration of that time, unless in the meanwhile the bankruptcy be annulled, the Court is to certify the same to the Speaker, and thereupon the seat shall be vacant. But it is under the head "Liquidation by Arrangement" that we find the greatest change, and, at the same time, the greatest reduction in machinery effected. This subject, which occupied nearly fifty clauses in the bill of last Session, is now compressed within the limits of one, including fifteen sub-sections. The property of a debtor may be distributed among his creditors without the intervention of the Court of Bankruptcy, provided this arrangement be assented to by a majority in number and five sixths in value of all his creditors, such assent being signified either by vote at a general meeting or in writing. The same formalities with regard to the appointment of a trustee, committee of inspection, &c., and the vesting of the debtor's property in the trustee, are to hold good as under an adjudication of bankruptcy, with the exception that the trustee is not to have the power to disclaim, as he may in the latter case, any property of the debtor. We fail to see why this distinction should be made, or why a trustee, in administering a debtor's estate, where the creditors agree that this shall be done without having recourse to the Court, should not be relieved from the responsibility of accepting property burdened with onerous obligations, as it is proposed he should be when dealing with the same kind of property of a debtor who is adjudicated bankrupt. The machinery provided for carrying out a liquidation by arrangement is, as we have said above, assimilated as much as possible to that for realising a bankrupt's estate under the direction of the Court. Hence it will follow that the whole system of composition deeds, and with it all the undigested mass of decisions (many of them, be it remembered, irreconcilable) arising out of that famous, or rather infamous, section 192 of Lord Westbury's Act, which brought them into fashion, will be swept away. This will be no small boon to the mercantile community, and the Attorney-General will, we should think, earn the well-merited thanks of his own profession by relieving its members at once and for ever of this rank parasitical growth, which contributed so much to the redundancy and so little to the efficiency of the existing statute law.

Our readers may, perhaps, be surprised that we should have left to the last any reference to what, after all, is probably the highest claim of this measure to enlist public opinion in its favour. We mean the provision for the abolition of imprisonment for debt. We hasten to assure them, however, that it is not from want of appreciation of the importance of the great advance in the views of our legislators on this subject that we have hitherto refrained from alluding to it, but rather because, from the searching ventilation which the step in question has been submitted to in a hundred other quarters, we deemed that in the estimation of our readers it might safely be considered a foregone conclusion.

PRINCE ARTHUR IN IRELAND.

PRINCE ARTHUR'S visit to Ireland has been marked with the greatest enthusiasm on the part of the populace and, during the earlier days, an almost unceasing downpour of rain. The Prince's visits to Punchestown races and a review in Phoenix Park, Dublin, were both spoiled by the rain. The disappoint-

ment caused by the inclemency of the weather at the review was, however, more than fully compensated for by the great success which attended the grand Masonic ball given in the Dublin Exhibition Palace, which was honoured by the presence of his Royal Highness Prince Arthur, their Excellencies the Lord Lieutenant and Countess Spencer, and several other distinguished visitors. Considerable disappointment had been created among the Roman Catholics who intended to be present in consequence of an interdict that Cardinal Cullen had issued against their attendance; but, although the number was in consequence, no doubt, lessened, the prohibition was not altogether successful. No inconsiderable number disobeyed the Cardinal's injunction. In every respect the ball was a most complete success. The entire building was thrown open for the occasion, and within its precincts there was one of the most magnificent gatherings ever held in the city, comprising the rank, wealth, and fashion of the country. In all directions the view was pleasing, gay, and animated, and the Royal and Viceregal party expressed their gratification to some of the heads of the association. The Leinster Hall was converted into a ball-room, and at the angle of the nave and this room was erected a very handsome canopy and dais, the former very richly formed of gilt cornicing, with Masonic blue and gold, and lace hangings. The dais was set apart for the Royal and Viceregal visitors. The bands of the 1st (Royal) Dragoons and the 9th Foot were stationed on a handsome orchestra in the ball-room, and played a very choice selection of dance music. In the grand concert-hall ample preparations were made to meet the wants of over 3500 visitors. An upper hall was furnished as a supper-room for the most distinguished of the visitors, including the Royal and Viceregal guests. The grand officers assembled at nine o'clock, wearing the collars, aprons, and other badges of their respective orders, the grand deacons bearing wands and the grand swordbearer his sword. At a quarter to ten o'clock a procession was formed, awaiting the arrival of the Grand Master, his Grace the Duke of Leinster, in the smaller concert-room, consisting of the ex-Deputy Grand Master (the Hon. Judge Townsend) and other grand officers, preceded by the stewards selected to attend at the dais. Having marched into the ball-room, the Deputy Grand Master took his seat until the arrival of the Grand Master was notified to him. At a quarter past ten o'clock the grand officers proceeded to meet the most worshipful Master at the door, and conducted his Grace along the stately hall to the dais, where, on taking his seat, the Grand Master was saluted according to the ancient form by the brethren assembled. At eleven o'clock, on the arrival of his Royal Highness Prince Arthur, their Excellencies the Lord Lieutenant and Countess Spencer, and suites; the Grand Master, accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master and other grand officers, advanced to the entrance in procession to meet the Royal and Viceregal party, who were escorted by a guard of honour of the 1st (Royal) Dragoons, and accompanied them to the seats provided for them at the dais, the bands playing the National Anthem. A detachment of the 16th Foot and metropolitan police were drawn up in front of the building to receive the Royal and Viceregal party. Dancing shortly afterwards commenced in the ball-room by the general company, and by the more distinguished guests in the space opposite the dais. The ball was opened by Prince Arthur and Countess Spencer, having for their vis-à-vis the Lord Lieutenant and Countess Seafield.

The Royal and Viceregal visitors were received by his Grace the Duke of Leinster, who, as Grand Master of the order in Ireland, presided; and as his Royal Highness took his seat on the dais he was warmly cheered. Upon the announcement of supper a procession was formed, and the illustrious visitors were conducted by the Grand Master to the supper-room, where a sumptuous entertainment was provided. The Royal and Viceregal party remained till a late hour, when their departure was attended with the same formalities as at the entrance. The proceedings did not terminate till a late hour in the morning.

The Prince and the Viceregal party paid a visit to the Curragh Camp on Tuesday, and witnessed a sham fight. They lunched with the officers of the 9th Lancers at Newbridge, and afterwards drew a drag hunt. The weather was extremely fine. The Prince also visited the Dublin Society's Spring Cattle Show on Tuesday.

The students of Trinity College, Dublin, appear to have made Prince Arthur's visit the occasion for a political demonstration. When his Royal Highness had concluded a very courteous reply to an address on occasion of a visit he paid to that institution last Saturday, the students gave several rounds of "Kentish fire," and while the Prince was inspecting the museum they rushed into the building and gave groans for Maynooth—the college his Royal Highness had just visited—and Cardinal Cullen, and cheers for "the Queen and the Church." Their behaviour appears to have excited some disgust; the *Freeman's Journal* characterises it as a violation of all the rules of hospitality, and a disgrace to Trinity.

ST. MARY, NEWINGTON.—The living of St. Mary, Newington, is worth £400 per annum. The value at the death of the Rector (which took place on Feb. 6) was £5000 a year; but a portion of the rectorial property, about £1000 per annum, fell to the two benefices of St. Peter's and Trinity. The present annual value is not less than £4000, and for the apportionment of this revenue a bill is about to be submitted to Parliament under the sanction of the Bishop of London and the Lord Chancellor. The nomination to the living in the present instance rests with Lord Hatherley. The bill proposes to endow several other churches of the parish with an annual income of £500, reserving £2000 per annum for the mother church. For the last seven years the parish has been under the charge of the Rev. Alfred Clay, who was transferred by the present Archbishop of Canterbury from the charge of St. George's-in-the-East.

CONFIRMATION AND DANCING.—The Bishop having announced his intention of holding a confirmation at the parish church, Kingston-on-Thames, classes were held by the Vicar (the Rev. A. Williams); and among the candidates were two daughters of a justice of the peace and a daughter of one of the oldest inhabitants of the town. These young ladies satisfied the Vicar in all but one particular: they declined to give a pledge that they would not attend dancing-parties in future or take part in any more dancing, and the Vicar therefore refused the usual certificate to the Bishop's Chaplain. The Bishop of Winchester was applied to, and his Lordship at once caused the candidates' parents to be informed that the Church did not exact any such pledge as Mr. Williams had asked for, and that the Bishop's deputy would see the ladies himself. Accordingly, Bishop Ryan (late Bishop of Mauritius) had an interview with the candidates and their parents, the result of which was that the rejected candidates were confirmed at St. Mark's, Surbiton, instead of at their own parish church.

DISCOVERY OF OLD SCOTTISH COINS.—An important discovery of old Scottish coins was recently made in a field near Prestonpans, a short distance from Edinburgh. There were in all 114 coins, chiefly silver, dating from the reign of James III. to that of Mary. The coins were lying in a heap, as if they had been originally in a bag. Among them was a gold noble of the time of Mary. One of the silver pieces had been struck in commemoration of Mary's marriage with the Dauphin of France. It is dated 1568; and in addition to the monogram, "P.M.," with the heraldic emblems of France and Scotland, there is the following Latin legend on the reverse—"Jam non sunt duo sed una caro." One of the silver coins, bearing the date 1558, is said to be almost as perfect in its stamping as on the day when it left the Scottish mint. A number of the coins have been deposited in the Edinburgh Antiquarian Museum. Carberry-hill, the scene of Mary's surrender, is in the neighbourhood of the place where the discovery was made.

TRADE DISPUTES.—There are no signs of a termination of the strike at Preston. Several members of the Master's Association have refused to be bound by the decision of the majority in the matter of the compromise, on the ground that it would compel them to compete on unfavourable terms with masters who are not members of the association. The men, with the concurrence of their employers, have commenced an agitation for the abolition of the duty on manufactured cloth exported to India, a measure which they believe would greatly improve their position. The sawyers of Stockport have struck for an advance of wages, and have declined to accept the Manchester rates of payment. The relations between the builders and their workmen are likely to be very seriously disturbed this year by the attitude taken by both parties in respect to the hours of labour, rate of wages, &c., several notices and cross-notices having been given by the masons and joiners and their employers. The greater portion of the stone-masons of Manchester struck last Saturday, their six months' notice having expired. The carpenters' notice expires on May 1, but it is hoped that in the meantime the dispute may be settled by an appeal to the arbitration of Mr. Rupert Kettle.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor Napoleon has written a letter to M. Rouher on the subject of the hundredth anniversary of the birthday of Napoleon I., which occurs on Aug. 15 next. The Emperor thinks that the best mode of celebrating the day will be to grant a pension of £10 a year to every old soldier who served under the first Napoleon. His Majesty expresses a hope that the Legislative Chamber will welcome this proposition with the patriotic feeling by which the Assembly is animated; for "to awaken great historical recollections," he says, "is to strengthen faith in the future; and to render homage to great men is to recognise one of the most striking manifestations of the Divine will."

In the Legislative Chamber, last Saturday, M. de Lavalette, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to questions from M. Jules Favre, gave an account of the relations of France with several of the European Powers. With regard to Germany, he said the Government had no desire to interfere in her affairs, unless legitimate reasons should induce it to do so; and of this he saw no probability. "We respect the rights of our neighbours," added the Minister, "and we have no cause to fear that ours will not be respected likewise." M. de Lavalette said that the relations of France with Italy were good, and that the Italian Ministry had re-entered upon a conservative path. The Pontifical Government was advancing in the reconstruction of its forces; but the time had not arrived for withdrawing the French troops from Rome. Summing up, the Minister said that the foreign relations of France were good; that peace, the object of her desire, was neither compromised nor uncertain; and that a fearful responsibility would attach to anyone who allowed national susceptibility to plunge great nations into war.

On Tuesday it was proposed that the Imperial Guard should be suppressed, and a reduction of 200,000 men be made in the army. The proposal was rejected. In the course of the discussion Marshal Niel stated that the effective strength of the French army would never exceed 400,000 men. On the previous day he announced that the Imperial Government could always have 600,000 men under arms in eight or nine days.

BELGIUM.

From Belgium we have news of a strike among the men employed at the coal-mines and engine-works of Messrs. Cockerell, at Seraign, near Liège. In anticipation of disturbances, troops and gendarmes were sent for, and a collision soon after occurred, in which several persons are said to have been killed or wounded. Order was subsequently restored, and is said to continue; but that is probably due in great measure to the presence of a large military force stationed in the neighbourhood.

SPAIN.

In Monday's sitting of the Cortes Marshal Serrano, in reply to a question from Deputy Ruano, said that the Government had received news from Havannah, dated the 8th inst., announcing that the insurrection in the island had diminished. The Government has given orders that 600 insurgents, taken prisoners in Cuba, should be sent to the Canary Islands, instead of to the unhealthy island of Fernando Po, whither the authorities in Cuba have hitherto been sending them.

PORTUGAL.

The elections in Portugal have resulted largely in favour of the Government. There has been a rumour in circulation at Lisbon that the Marquis de Sa da Bandeira intends to resign, but the cause assigned does not warrant any belief in the report.

ITALY.

In Wednesday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies the President announced an interpellation, moved by Signor Laporta, respecting the present state of the Roman question and the relations of Italy with foreign countries. General Menabrea replied that he was ready to accept the interpellation, but that the present moment was inopportune, considering the urgency of the discussion upon the Estimates of the different Ministries. Moreover, the proposed debate could not throw more light on the Roman question than was afforded by the documents lately published. The interpellation was then withdrawn, but will be brought forward on the discussion of the Estimates of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Ricciotti and Menotti Garibaldi have arrived in Florence from Bologna.

An Italian paper has met with a sort of programme of the deliberations of the Ecumenical Council to be held in Rome this year. The programme, which has been sent only to those dignitaries of the Church who are to take part in the deliberations, is composed of thirteen articles. Of these, the three following are given:—2. That the doctrine of the moral necessity of the temporal power of the Pope, affirmed by all the Bishops in general council, will produce the most salutary effect upon the ideas of Princes and peoples, will consolidate the power of the Church, and sooner or later lead to the restitution of the provinces usurped by the Revolution. 9. That the dogma of the infallibility of the Pope and his supremacy over the Ecumenical Council will be defined. 10. That the Council will put an end to the innumerable abuses and reprehensible customs which have insinuated themselves into certain churches and also into certain kingdoms and religious orders.

ROME.

A festival to celebrate the anniversary of the Pope's entry into the priesthood took place on Sunday. Mass was said by his Holiness, in St. Peter's, at half-past seven in the morning, before an immense congregation. At the conclusion of the religious ceremony Pius IX., the members of the Papal Court, and the diplomatic corps were entertained at breakfast by the Chapter of St. Peter's. An amnesty, in which the political prisoners are included, has been granted. The city is reported to be very full of strangers.

A telegram from Rome states that the Queen of England was among the Sovereigns who congratulated the Pope upon the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination. The presents sent to his Holiness on this occasion included olives, oil, wine, cheese, corn, lamb, calves, hams, jewels, money to a large amount, and warlike stores. In addition to these, a battery of field guns was expected from Poitiers.

RUSSIA.

Advices from St. Petersburg relate that the Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia, when lately proceeding by railway to Odessa, had a narrow escape from destruction. The Imperial train contained, besides the Prince, the English Ambassador, Lady Buchanan, and several persons of high distinction. It had just passed at full speed over the bridge of Seim, between Koursk and Kiew, when the whole structure fell in, and another train which followed, full of travellers, was precipitated into the river. The number of victims is declared to be considerable.

THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. John Lothrop Motley has been nominated by the President for American Minister to England, and Mr. John Jay, of New York, to Austria. These appointments have been confirmed by the Senate.

The Senate rejected the Alabama claims treaty on Tuesday, only one vote being given in its favour.

The House of Representatives has passed General Butler's bill authorising the President to submit to the votes of Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas the Constitution formed by the Convention of these States, and, if ratified, to order the election of their State officers. The House has also passed unanimously a joint resolution, authorising the President to recognise any *de facto* Government in Cuba, provided it be based upon Republican principles. This resolution did not reach the Senate, as Congress adjourned the next day until Dec. 7. The Senate, however, was to meet specially for the purpose of considering new appointments of State officers made by the President, and for the ratification of treaties.

The Republican party has gained another victory, having succeeded in returning the Governor and a majority of the Legislature for Rhode Island.

THE BRAZILS.

Paraguayan advices to Feb. 27 state that the war was not considered ended, Lopez being still in Paraguay. An expedition of 12,000 men was preparing to march into the interior, in search of Lopez, of whom nothing was positively known. The expedition had returned from Matto Grosso, and found Corumba in the hands of the Brazilians. They met no Paraguayans. The navigation of Paraguay was perfectly free.

CHINA.

It is reported from Hong-Kong that the native Christians near Foochow have been subjected to great persecutions.

THE MEANING OF MR. DISRAELI'S AMENDMENTS.

EVEN an Orangeman must admit that Mr. Disraeli has his use. If the battle of the Irish Church had to be fought by its members a great deal of fine Protestant fervour would have to be suppressed. Business and excitement do not go well together, and a clergy which had to look after its own interests would have no time left for those bursts of thrilling passion which occupy a prominent place in provincial Irish newspapers. The existence of Mr. Disraeli makes all smooth. He takes the work, and the churchmen of Ireland are thus left free to give their whole minds to talk. They can preach resistance to the death in the pleasant consciousness that their English champion is doing the best he can to negotiate a surrender on favourable terms. They can refuse to entertain a thought of compromise without in any way interfering with the particular arrangement which their Parliamentary mouthpiece is trying to secure. They may even condemn Mr. Disraeli as a Gallio, who has no real devotion to the ark of the Reformation; but, if Gallio has an eye for business, it may be expedient to use his services in Committee. In this way both parties seem in a fair way to being satisfied. Preaching and practice are divided so that one need not be hampered by the other, and honour and pocket are alike consulted at different stages of the transaction.

With three exceptions, the amendments of which Mr. Disraeli gave notice on Monday night relate, at least in form, exclusively to the disendowment clauses of the bill. The first of these exceptions is the proposed omission of clause 2, which provides that the legislative union between the Churches of England and Ireland shall be dissolved, and that the Church of Ireland shall cease to be established by law. Inasmuch as subsequent clauses of the bill provide for the vesting of all Church property in Commissioners, for the dissolution of ecclesiastical Corporations, and for the cessation of the Bishops' right to sit in the House of Lords, it will probably be contended that this second clause is mere surplusage, only calculated to give needless offence to a body of men who will still regard themselves as members of the Church of England. Taken in conjunction, however, with the second exception, and with some of the amendments relating to disendowment, it will be seen that the omission is more significant than it looks. Mr. Disraeli proposes that no person shall be appointed to any bishopric or benefice "after the passing of this Act, and before the first day of January, 1872." The words in italics are new, and their effect would be to allow the Crown to assume the right of nominating the Bishops of the disestablished Church, supposing the representative body of that Church should request it to do so. By a proposed addition to clause 13 the present Archbishops, Bishops, and Deans are to "enjoy during their lives the same title and precedence as if this Act had not passed." Consequently, if Mr. Disraeli's amendments are adopted, we may see in Ireland a very wealthy Church, with its Bishops and dignitaries appointed as now by the Crown, and enjoying, as regards the present occupants, the same title and precedence as now, and able to boast that the only clause in the bill which distinctly decreed its disestablishment had been struck out by the House of Commons in Committee. By this means the "sentimental grievance" about which so much has been said would be kept alive for this generation at least, and a great part, if not the whole, of the benefits which it is hoped to reap from the measure would be lost.

By amendments in clauses 3 and 4 it is proposed to appoint Mr. Brady and Mr. Brewster, the ex-Chancellors, and Mr. Keatinge, the late Judge of the Probate Court, as unpaid Commissioners, and to provide that any person aggrieved by any order of a paid Commissioner "may require his case to be heard by a Court consisting of one other paid Commissioner and two unpaid Commissioners at the least." Among other subjects with which this Court will have to deal will be the determination whether any property is a private endowment. As the bill stands, a private endowment must be "the produce of property or money given by private persons out of their own resources" or "raised by private subscription" since 1660. Mr. Disraeli proposes to omit this date, so that all property given by private persons to the Roman Catholic Church before the Reformation would be included in the private endowments of the disestablished Protestant Church; and to assist the "court" in tracing the history of such endowments and in establishing their private character, an amendment to clause 29 provides that "it shall be lawful for the Commissioners to receive and act upon such historical and other evidences as may seem to them to be satisfactory, although the same may not be evidence of a legal character," and to allow the costs of the application. The object of the very unusual course adopted by the leader of the Opposition will now be clear. He proposes that half the Commissioners shall be Irish Churchmen in whom he has confidence, that they shall invariably constitute a majority of the Commissioners sitting to determine any given case, and that this majority shall make over to the disestablished Church all property which, "on such evidence"—not of a legal character—"as may seem to them to be satisfactory," they shall decree to be private endowments. When we remember how often it has been proved, to the complete contentment of Irish Churchmen, that St. Patrick was a good Protestant of the school of the Bishop of Cork, it is easy to guess what sort of evidence would be sufficient to satisfy an unpaid Commissioner. Indeed, if this amendment were passed, there would be good ground for doubting whether the disestablished Church would ultimately have to surrender any property at all. Mr. Disraeli does not wish, however, to run any needless risks; and a later addition to the same clause directs the Commissioners to vest all "lands or hereditaments which have been appropriated or granted by or in pursuance of any statute, or Royal grant, or letters patent since the second year of Queen Elizabeth," in the representative body of the disestablished Church. All public endowments since the Reformation, and all private endowments, whether before or since, would not make a bad provision for the shorn lambs of Irish Protestantism.

They get a good deal more than this, however. As clause 23 of the bill stands any ecclesiastical person may, at any time after Jan. 1, 1871, apply to the Commissioners to commute his life interest, and the Commissioners are thereupon to pay the estimated value of his life interest at the time of commutation to the representative body of the Church charged with the payment of the annuity so long as it is required. By Mr. Disraeli's amendment the representative body may at any time during the year 1871 apply to the Commissioners to commute the life interests of all ecclesiastical persons, and the Commissioners shall thereupon pay to the representative body, not the then present value of such life interests, but a capital sum equal to fourteen times the aggregate amount of the yearly income to which such ecclesiastical persons are entitled, charged with the payment of the annuities so long as they are required. Further, in the case of all churches made over to the representative body, an amendment to clause 25 provides that the Commissioners shall ascertain and certify the annual sum which, on an average of ten years preceding Jan. 1, 1869, has been expended by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in church repairs and in providing for the performance of Divine service,

and shall pay to the representative body a sum equal to fourteen times such annual sum, to be applied to similar purposes. And a proposed additional clause directs the Commissioners to pay to the representative body "a capitalised sum equal to four times the aggregate amount of the net annual incomes of all the incumbents of benefices, upon trust, to apply the income arising from the same towards the maintenance of Divine worship in Ireland." Thus, on Mr. Disraeli's theory of disendowment the disestablished Church would possess all private endowments, whether contributed in Roman Catholic or Protestant times, all endowments granted by the Crown or Parliament since the second year of Queen Elizabeth, together with a capital sum equal to fourteen times the annual income of all holders of ecclesiastical preferments, fourteen times the annual expenses of repairing and performing service in the churches, and four times the yearly income of all incumbents of benefices. A Church with so much property to look after must spend a good deal of money merely in managing its affairs, and Mr. Disraeli considerably proposes that the Commissioners shall make over £200,000 to the representative body to provide for the payment of its expenses. And, lest the Commissioners should find their funds insufficient to defray so many demands, they are relieved from the obligation of making any compensation either for the Maynooth grant or the Regium Donum.—*Poll Mall Gazette.*

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PAUPERS in the unions and parishes of the metropolis on the last day of the first week of April, 1869, was 147,086. The corresponding total for the preceding year was 145,537.

STREET TRAMWAYS are now likely to be sanctioned by Parliament, a Committee of the Lower House having on Tuesday, with certain restrictions, agreed to the preamble of the bill now promoted for their establishment.

THE DUBLIN CHURCH CONFERENCE.—The Dublin Church Conference assembled on Tuesday—Archbishop Trench in the chair. In delivering the opening address his Grace stated that they had met not to take any cognisance of the governing body proposed to be created by Mr. Gladstone's bill, but to protest against the injustice of the measure. This done, they would dissolve. They were not met to compromise; they protested against it, and regarded Mr. Gladstone's measure as confiscation; as assailing the prerogatives of the Crown; as unjustly dealing with the property of the subject; and destroying the best of all titles—prescription. The conference closed its public meetings on Wednesday, and was to sit privately on Thursday. Before closing the first day's meeting, on Tuesday, an amendment was carried by a large majority renouncing all attempts from any quarter in favour of levelling up. The Earl of Longford, the Bishop of Ossory, the Right Hon. Sir Frederick Shaw (Recorder of Dublin), Sir Joseph Napier, the Dean of Clonmel, Mr. Robert Hamilton (of Belfast), and Lord Oranmore, spoke at this meeting.

THE OPPOSITION AMENDMENTS TO THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.—At a meeting of members of the House of Commons who usually follow Mr. Disraeli, held at Lord Leveson's house, in Carlton House-terrace, on Monday afternoon, about 150 gentlemen are understood to have attended, and letters were read from others expressive of adhesion to whatever line of action the party might adopt. Great unanimity prevailed throughout the proceedings, and in the discussion which took place the utmost determination was evinced to offer the most strenuous opposition to the Irish Church Bill of the Government. The amendments which, in the course of the evening Mr. Disraeli laid on the table of the House of Commons were not specifically submitted to the meeting; but it was generally intimated that attempts would be made to throw the cost of the compensation to Maynooth and for the Regium Donum on the Consolidated Fund; to secure to the incumbents the full value of their life interests, without deduction for curates; and to escape the payment of the sum which, according to the bill, is to be paid before possession can be taken of the glebe-houses. The amendments further include a proposal for an annual grant to the new Church Directory while engaged in forming the Church Corporation. It is also proposed to increase the number of the Commissioners to six and to reserve to the Church private endowments earlier than 1660.

THE DISTURBANCES IN BELGIUM.—The *Indépendance Belge*, speaking of the disturbances near Liège, says:—"The causes of the strike are not exactly known, or at least the complaints made by the rioters vary considerably. Several times the Burgomaster, M. Kamp; the Procureur de Roi, M. Dubois; and the Commissary of the Arrondissement, have been amongst them urging them to specify their grievances; none of them have been able to do so. The coal-miners have only made common cause with the ironworkers for the sake of having a holiday and a few days of agitation, and to obtain the dismissal of a new foreman recently appointed, and who, it seems, treats them badly. As to the puddlers and hammer-men, the following appear to be the reasons which have influenced their conduct. According to the regulations, the former ought to furnish a minimum of eight charges or heats per day; that task accomplished, they had the right to leave the foundry. This kind of work being very laborious and fatiguing, a man very rarely exceeded the compulsory quantity. Some time since an attempt was made to introduce certain innovations and to raise the number to nine daily; and, in addition, no one was allowed to leave the establishment before six o'clock, the hour at which the night hands arrive. These changes were so much the worse received that they were accompanied by a reduction on the pay of 25c, the 1000 kilog. (about a ton). Some secondary measures (obligation to pay for their leathern aprons and their tongs, &c.) brought the discontent to a head, and on leaving work on Thursday evening week they mutinied. They dispersed immediately in the village of Liège, and urged the miners from the neighbouring pits to join them, and were only too readily listened to."

THE TOWER SUBWAY.—On Wednesday a party of scientific gentlemen and engineers visited the works of the new Thames Subway, which are now making rapid progress. They were received at the Tower-hill shaft by one of the directors, Mr. P. W. Barlow, C.E., with the engineer and contractors, who explained the nature of the works and accompanied their visitors to the bottom of the shaft. The descent was effected in the old-fashioned way, as by bucket of a draw-well, only that the bucket was worked by a powerful steam-engine. The shaft, about 60 ft. deep, is incased in strong iron tubing for a considerable distance down, its lower part being faced with strong cylindrical brickwork set in cement. At the bottom of the shaft a large circular opening forms the entrance to the tunnel, which has already been cut several yards onward, and which will be rapidly pushed across the river. The interior of the tunnel is faced with iron segments bolted in as the work proceeds, ring after ring being added as the shield advances. The shield itself has its face divided into compartments which can be opened seriatim to remove the matter in front, and when it is sufficiently cleared it is pushed onwards by powerful jack-screws butting against the ironwork already placed *in situ*. For the more effectual protection of the works and the workmen, the shield is made with a cylindrical lip overlapping the rings of the tunnel, somewhat like the cover applied to the object-glass of a telescope. Thus, all the exterior matter is hermetically excluded except just at the small aperture in the shield where the excavation is being carried on. Should water threaten to make an inroad, it can be perfectly excluded by compressing the air in the tunnel, and thus converting it practically into an immense horizontal diving-bell. There appears, however, to be very little fear of this, as the matter excavated is sound, tenacious London clay, and there is every probability of this being the case from shore to shore. The visitors expressed their complete confidence in the success of the work as a new engineering problem to be solved, and there can be little doubt that such a communication across the river will prove a great convenience to the public.

SCOTTISH REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN.—The March return of the Registrar-General for Scotland is remarkable. It relates to the eight principal towns of Scotland; and the Registrar-General has to state that in that month there were registered 3574 births, 550 marriages, and 3218 deaths. These numbers are the highest recorded during any month of March since the Registration Act came into operation, in 1855; and, allowance being made for increase of population, the births are 222, the marriages 47, and the deaths 618 above the average of the month during the last ten years. In Glasgow the mortality has been high beyond all precedent, the registered deaths being 53 in excess of the births. The high mortality has not been caused by the prevalence of any epidemic, but by atmospheric agencies, and especially by the biting severity of the northerly and easterly winds, which have been the prevalent aërial currents during March. These not only raised the mortality from all diseases, but caused an immense increase and fatality of inflammatory affections of the respiratory organs. The deaths from inflammatory affections of the respiratory organs (not including consumption, whooping-cough, or croup) amounted to 812, being more than double the number during the corresponding month of last year, and 225 above those of February, 1869. The deaths from consumption alone were 408, from whooping-cough 141, from croup, 32. The zymotic (epidemic and contagious) class of diseases proved fatal to 688 persons in the eight towns, and thus constituted 21.4 per cent of the mortality; but the actual number of deaths from that class of diseases in each town, except Perth, was much above what it had been in February, showing the baneful effect of the atmospheric vicissitudes even on epidemic diseases. Fevers still continue the most fatal of the epidemics, having caused 189 deaths, or 5.8 per cent of the mortality. In the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, a chemical-works labourer, aged fifty years, died of exhaustion from leprosy of four years' standing. Of the 3574 children born during the month 1819 were males and 1755 females. Of these 3296 were legitimate and 268 illegitimate, showing that 10.3 per cent of the births were illegitimate, or one illegitimate in every 9.8 births. The month was characterised by low mean temperature, scantiness of rain, and large amount of north wind. Aberdeen records by far the greatest depth of rain, but still only 1.90 inches.

VELOCIPED RIDING-SCHOOLS.

ONE of Hood's "quaintest" fancies is being carried out in sober earnest. The academy at which old boys were put out to board, and from which one of the pupils describes how his fellows cannot play at marbles because the game necessitates stooping, and their rheumatics are so bad; or how hoop is rendered impracticable by gout, or prisoners' base by asthma, or details equally incongruous—this description is realised almost literally at the velocipede riding-schools. These abound in London just now. East, west, north, and south of the metropolis lessons are being given to men of all ages, with, so far as our observation extends, a decided run upon bald heads and grey hair among the pupils. It is on record that Faraday toiled up Hampstead-hill on one of the lumbering, old-fashioned velocipedes, a picture of which used invariably to illustrate the letter V in nursery alphabets. But that was when the philosopher was young; and one of the marvels of the new apparatus is the fascination it seems to exercise over the old.

Down St. Luke's Hospital way, and about midway between Moorgate station and that Goswell-street which has become classical ever since the embarrassing scene which took place in it between Mr. Pickwick and Mrs. Bardell, is one of the best known of the velocipede schools. From ten in the morning till six at night it is very busy. A couple of bronghams and several hansom cabs are waiting at the archway leading to it out of Old-street at the time of our visit. Past these and up a sort of court, and we are in a large factory, with crowds of mechanics busily at work. Velocipedes in various stages of progress are to be seen everywhere. They hang in thick rows, like onions, from the roof; they block up the floor; they are piled in pyramids against the walls. The majority are unfinished. Long lines of wheels unvarnished and unpainted are seasoning, while handles, seats, axletrees, and smaller wheels are being manipulated, or lie ready for use. There is as much scope for fancy about the decorations of a velocipede as in aught else, and whether one of the scores which were being made to order should be picked out with yellow or red as a relief to its dark body-colour was a subject of earnest discussion between two elderly officers during our stay. The guiding-bar is one of the things upon which extravagance is expected to centre. Already we were shown a very handsome one in burnished steel and with ivory handles as an "extra;" and that "we shall have to bring them out in silver before the season's over," is an opinion confidently expressed. So far we have kept to the manufactory and its approaches. The riding-school is beyond. The first-named place and the counting-house adjacent have been full of signs of the sudden and enormous demand which has arisen for the last new hobby-horse; while the school shows us how devotedly purchasers are qualifying themselves for riding it. Here is a stout country gentleman who has come up from a distant province for the sole purpose of receiving lessons. A stalwart attendant walks with him round the room, holding him on his velocipede by keeping an arm firmly round his waist. The sitter keeps his head down and his knees in, as if he were attempting to master a particularly vicious and unmanageable young horse. His eyes are firmly fixed upon the wheels beneath him, his shoulders are up, his teeth are clenched, his hat is pressed resolutely over his eyes, and his entire demeanour is that of a man who sees his work cut out for him and who means to master it. At first, his feet are allowed to hang uselessly down, while the attendant propels the velocipede by pushing it with his disengaged hand. The rider is directed to keep his attention to the handle, to balance himself by it, and to be careful at the turns. Round and round the vast bare chamber go the train, the attendant walking slowly under his double task, and giving out instructions rather disjointedly for lack of breath: "Give a looser hold to the handles, Sir—(puff)—don't grip 'em as if you were afraid of tumbling off—(puff, pant, puff). I'll take care of that (pant). Just feel 'em, like; the lighter and gentler the better—(puff)—and whenever you feel you're going over on one side just turn the opposite handle, and you'll right yourself directly (Pant, puff, puff)." After a little time the novice is told to use his feet, and he then turns the wheels slowly for himself, being still held on by the attendant instructor. There are no fastenings for the foot—simply a rest which projects out from the axle-trees; and whenever the handle is mismanaged, and the centre of gravity lost, the rider comes to the ground on his feet, and so stands up in a very comic way. It is as if a very tall man were on a pony so small that he can at any moment allow it to run between his legs. But there is nothing corresponding to the stirrup in any way; and one of the most striking things we noted was the readiness which even the least expert of novices could place himself at ease, by freeing himself altogether of the machine. Two such lessons as we saw given would, we were assured, enable the gentleman before us to manage a velocipede for himself; and from this stage to its complete mastery is a mere question of practice.

Several other pupils were at work. One gentleman was taking his second lesson, and confined his attention to moving the velocipede slowly, and to learning how to stop it at will. Others were practising various methods of mounting and descending. The true thing is to jump on while it is in progress, and to then push away merrily with hand and foot. The experts who had gone through their lessons, and were now merely indulging in an hour's practice, played a variety of tricks to show their proficiency or to extend their experience. Here was a man standing on the saddle—which is far broader and more comfortable in the seat than it appears—and balancing the velocipede by his dextrous management of the guiding-bar. There was another cutting in and out among the rest, and describing various figures on the floor. Skating on a large scale, or skimming over the ground by means of wings, was what it reminded one of most; and very exhilarating and delightful the rapid motion and entire mastery seemed. Many of the gentlemen before us had rushed in from the City for an hour's practice in the intervals of business—the Stock Exchange contributing a considerable contingent to the amusing and animated scene. Some private velocipedes were reared against the wall, with their owner's card affixed, and their wheels secured by chain and padlock; and the owner of one of these, a grave-looking gentleman with white hair, and looking like a bank director, came in for a "turn round" just as we left. There were plenty of young men, too; and the practice we saw, ranging, as it did, from the inexperienced novice to the skilled expert, made it clear that the use of the velocipede is easily, safely, and quickly learnt. There has been no accident at any of the schools we have visited since they have been opened; and for a study of the manners and customs of the hour, and of the extent to which the new fashion is followed, the observer might do worse than spend an hour at such an establishment as we visited in Old-street.

Later in the day we saw the two young Frenchmen who carried off the first and second prizes in the velocipede-races at the Crystal Palace display their skill at another velocipede school in Knightsbridge. There was all the difference here that one is accustomed to observe between professional and amateur hobby riding. The strength and skill shown by these two gentlemen, the way in which one held on by the other's back on the same velocipede, in which both rattled and raced to and fro the long room, and in which jumping on and off at full speed were practised, all reminded one of the circus ring. But it is the purely amateur practice that is most interesting. We were assured that a fair average of speed and ease can be obtained after three practice lessons; and though we found the limited progress we made on one to be rather full of aches and pains, we have no doubt of the correctness of the statement. It seems certain that the fashion of using velocipedes will increase if riding them be really as harmless and agreeable as it appears. The fatigue being slight, and the progress—though not reaching the preposterous promises of some of the advertisements—rapid, it seems reasonable to expect that this peculiar form of locomotion will increase, and that it will in time be no more singular to keep a velocipede than to carry a walking-stick. Already the best makers are as busy as they can well be.—*Daily News.*

TESTIMONIAL TO GUILDFORD ONSLOW, ESQ., M.P.

ON Friday, the 19th ult., the wives and daughters of the Liberal electors of Guildford presented to Guildford Onslow, Esq., M.P., a handsome silver loving-cup, in commemoration of his return for the borough and the defeat of the petition. The presentation, which created the greatest excitement, took place in the County and Borough Hall, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion. Flags of all nations, festoons of laurel, and baskets of flowers adorned with red and white roses, were suspended from all parts of the building, which, with arms, mottoes, and inscriptions, formed a gay and festive scene, and were the work of several enthusiastic young ladies. A number of noblemen, ladies, and gentlemen filled the platform, who all carried bouquets of red and white—the member's colours. The chair was taken by W. W. Pocock, Esq., and, after opening the proceedings, he called upon Mrs. Werninck (the lady of John S. W. Werninck, Esq., a Liberal gentleman of some eminence in the borough), who, as president of the ladies' committee, was deputed to present the testimonial, which she did in a very graceful manner. Mr. Onslow, in returning thanks, referred to the interest the ladies had always taken in his elections, and the influence they exercised over his supporters; and concluded an amusing speech by saying that, although through them he had gained his seat, through them he had lost his heart. He then introduced his best man, Sir Patrick O'Brien, M.P., who proposed, and C. Lanyon, Esq., Q.C., who seconded, a vote of thanks to the ladies, which was received with acclamations by the 1200 persons assembled. Sir G. Bowyer returned thanks, and a vote to the chairman closed the proceedings. The cup, with cover, stands 20 in. high, and is richly chased with the national emblems, roses, shamrocks, and thistles. It has two handsome shields, on one of which are engraved the armorial bearings of the member, and on the other the following inscription:—"Presented to Guildford Onslow, Esq., M.P., by the Wives and Daughters of the Liberal Electors of Guildford, on his return as sole representative of the borough.—Nov. 18, 1868."

This cup, which weighs nearly 100 oz., was manufactured by the Goldsmiths' Alliance Company (Limited), 11 and 12, Cornhill.

THE VICEROY'S VISIT TO THE SUEZ CANAL.

We last week published a full account of the visit lately paid by the Viceroy of Egypt to the Suez Canal works, together with some Engravings illustrative of the event. Our Illustration this week represents the reception of his Highness at Ismailia, which was of a very cordial nature.

THE CLAXTON GRAPE-SHOT GUN.

THE investigations which have been so long continued in the French artillery service, in order to ascertain the most complete system of large and small arms, have lately been directed to the invention of Mr. Claxton, who has introduced a new "Mitrailleuse," or engine for the discharge of grape-shot, a representation of which and its method of working may be seen in our Engraving. The secret of this new system of artillery may be said to be pretty widely known, and is therefore a secret no longer, so that improvements are already being made on the original mitrailleuse of Meudon, and the Claxton adaptation is the newest. It consists of a complete sheaf of gun-barrels, firmly bound together and fitted with a mechanism which discharges them simultaneously. In the Meudon system the discharge is effected by an alternating movement, which



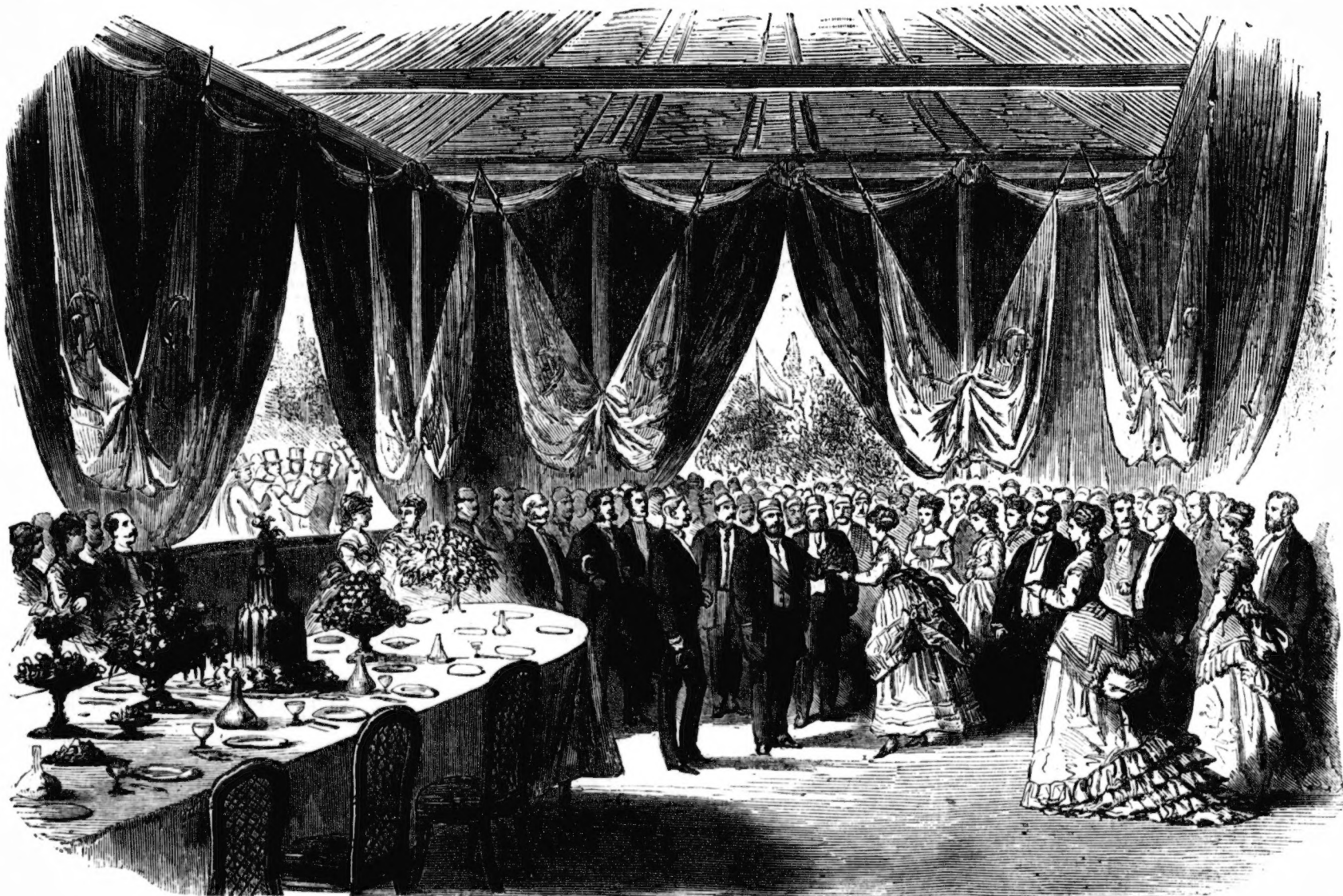
TESTIMONIAL PRESENTED TO GUILDFORD ONSLOW, ESQ., M.P., BY THE LADIES OF GUILDFORD.

causes the firing to resemble that of a platoon, while the Claxton is continuous, and is more like file firing. The engine, too, is remarkable at once for its combined solidity and lightness, the latter quality giving it great advantages in the field, where it can be moved with

the utmost facility. It is so easily worked, too, that sixty shots a minute can be made with it. Setting out with these advantages, Colonel Claxton has introduced three various pieces, the first and second of which are of a calibre of twenty-five millimetres, and are called "artillerie à bras," since they occupy an intermediate place between the light cannon and the musket; the third being named "infanterie mécanique," because it may be transported by one man, who draws it to its place, together with 750 cartridges containing its ammunition. In the experiments just made at Liège one of the first descriptions of pieces was in use, and it is reported that on the word of command the artilleryman fixed, loaded, and discharged the gun in fifteen seconds, while in one minute 120 shots had been fired. If this be possible, it would appear that the new arm is likely to exert a considerable influence on the artillery, and that a change in this branch of the service is likely to be effected which, unlike the new inventions of monitors and enormous guns for the marine service, will still further expedite movements in the field and introduce increased swiftness of execution.

CIVIL CONTINGENCIES FUND.

A LONG list of miscellaneous expenses, amounting in the aggregate to the formidable sum of £30,831 11s. 6d., and appearing in the Civil Service Estimates under the ambiguous title of "Repayments to the Civil Contingencies Fund" (but there is no doubt that it is the British public who are called on to repay), makes us sigh for a worthy successor of Joseph Hume in the House of Commons to deal with this queer collection of items. We regret to be again reminded of Messrs. Baxter, Rose, and Norton's connection with Mr. Disraeli by a charge of £2150 for their "services in connection with the Reform Bill of 1867." There is a further charge of £183 11s. 3d. for "preparation of electoral returns," by whom is not stated. If, as is to be presumed, there is a stamp on every colonial governor's commission, it ought to be explained why the public pay a duty of £200 in the single instance of Sir W. F. Williams, Governor of Nova Scotia, other governors paying for the stamp themselves. We cannot think that the dignity of royalty has been properly consulted by those who have permitted the appearance in this list of a paltry sum of £2 1s., for "rigging, &c., of pier at Antwerp on embarkation of the Prince of Wales. It cannot be supposed that the Belgian Government has sent in this bill. A more important matter is a charge of £3874 14s., "cost of presents and gratuities by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh at the Cape and Australia, and during his present voyage in H.M.S. Galatea." The Duke of Edinburgh was endowed by the nation, on his coming of age, with a handsome income to enable him to maintain his princely position. He is voyaging about the world, with the further emoluments of his naval rank and command; surely the presents and gratuities he may be called on to dispense in his travels should be paid from the liberal income he derives from the nation. If strict economy is needed, it must be enforced in all quarters, high as well as low. For the same reason it is not pleasing to see an item of charge for conveyance of Prince Christian between Dover and Calais. It was very natural that his Royal Highness should hurry abroad on the occasion of his father's illness—but the Prince, who lives among us, received on his marriage with an English Princess, a handsome dowry from her nation, and we strongly incline to the opinion that he should pay his own travelling expenses. The total of all these items, many of them small in themselves, is a large sum—upwards of £30,000; and such a list forcibly exemplifies the importance of "looking after the pence."—*Pull Mall Gazette*.



THE SUEZ CANAL: RECEPTION OF THE VICEROY OF EGYPT AT ISMAILIA.

EXPERIMENTS WITH THE CLAYTON GRAPE-SHOT GUN.



INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 351.

LOWE'S BUDGET.

A MORNING paper told us that there was not much anxiety to hear Mr. Lowe's Budget speech. This is scarcely correct. There were in St. Stephen's Hall, when we passed through it, strangers enough to fill the gallery twice over. In no part of the House where strangers sit was there a vacant place. The floor of the House was quite full, and so were the members' galleries. Of course, there was not the rush and the excitement that there was when Gladstone used to enchant his hearers with those wonderful Budget speeches some years ago. Mr. Lowe is not the man to excite such a fervour. Then, it had come to be generally thought that this would be a humdrum Budget—merely a quiet balancing of accounts. There has been so much received, so much spent; deficit so much, which must somehow be got—probably by an increase of the income tax. This was the talk of the clubs. Had any inkling of the wondrous feats of legerdemain which the Chancellor of the Exchequer intended to perform got abroad, the excitement would have been greater. But not a hint of the coming wonders had oozed out. Never was a secret so well kept. Sheridan had not the slightest hope that the fire-insurance duty would be remitted. Alderman Lawrence was quite startled when he heard that the taxes on omnibuses and cabs were to be abolished. And as the news of all the wonders that were to be done trickled out of the House into the lobby, the crowd there were simply incredulous. It was well for Mr. Lowe that he had to disclose these marvels, otherwise he could hardly have held the House's attention. He can be an attractive speaker, and when he is roused and occasion offers for him to flash out his wit and hurl right and left his darts tipped with biting sarcasms, no man can excite the passions of his audience more than he; but a plain statement, especially a statement full of figures and financial calculations, is quite out of his way. He may have a talent for finance; doubtless he has—certainly he has, if that Budget was all his own. But, if all be plain to himself, he has not the gift to make it plain to others. How is this? Mr. Lowe is exceedingly near-sighted. To everything beyond a few inches of his face he, it would seem, is blind. Now, when Mr. Lowe is delivering one of his set, well-studied orations, having nothing to read except a few catch-notes, this "effect defective" does not impede the flow of his eloquence, though probably it does mar his delivery. It is noticeable that Mr. Fawcett does not attempt to emphasise his sentences by action; neither does Mr. Lowe, who, to everything beyond a very limited range, is as blind as Mr. Fawcett. But on the Budget night Mr. Lowe had a despatch-box full of papers to read. Indeed, during the first hour of his speech he did little else but read. Every Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he has to deliver a Budget speech, has the same quantity of papers. But think how different are the circumstances in which Gladstone is placed on such occasions and those in which Lowe's blindness placed him. Mr. Gladstone can read anything half a yard off. At a glance he can take in the sums he wishes to quote, and he can turn round and parenthetically explain them, and then at a glance hit upon them again. But Mr. Lowe, when he wanted to quote a document, had first to stoop and painfully search for it with his eyes within an inch or two of the table, then to bring it close to his face, adjust his glass to the right focus, and then to pass the paper slowly backwards and forwards before his eyes. Under such circumstance, eloquent parenthetical explanations like those which Gladstone was wont to give us were impossible. A morning paper told us that Mr. Lowe often blundered over his figures, and certainly he did; but is this wonderful? The wonder to us is how, under such difficulties, he got through those voluminous figures and calculations at all. But he did, and with wonderful success. Indeed, though the House has often heard more eloquent Budget speeches, it may be questioned whether it has ever listened to a clearer financial statement. A certain Mr. Corrance told us on the following Monday that he had not met with two men who could understand it. Mr. Corrance's friends must be men of exceedingly limited intelligence. We have talked with many upon this Budget and have not yet met with two men who could not understand it. After the first hour, Mr. Lowe got into open ground, clear of the jungle of figures; and then he was himself again—eloquent, clear, distinct, logical. Mr. Lowe's physical visual organs are not of the best; but over his mental vision there is rarely the shadow of eclipse. Indeed, on only one question was he ever far wrong. Perhaps our readers may remember that more than once in these columns we have said that on all subjects except Parliamentary reform Mr. Lowe would prove one of the boldest, ablest, most honest Reformers that we ever had; and see how he inaugurated his career as Chancellor of the Exchequer! He has worked a financial miracle, and confuted the dogma that "from nothing there is nothing made."

AMAZEMENT SITS UPON THE HOUSE'S FACE.

From our post of observation it was amusing to watch the faces of honourable members, especially those of the Conservative gentlemen, as our Chancellor of the Exchequer began to take out of his empty bag, one by one, its marvellous contents. "Marvellous contents from an empty bag!" This looks like an absurdity, but it is really a sober truth. For did not our Chancellor of the Exchequer, like the conjuror on the stage, show us that the bag was empty—turning it inside out and shaking it before our eyes? Disraeli sat immovable, showing no sign of astonishment or even interest. He might have been, from anything discernible, in a reverie, mentally far away from the House. Mr. Ward Hunt, the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, tried to look the same. It does not become officials, you know, to show feeling. *Nil admirari*—be moved by nothing—is the official motto; but he did not succeed. He could not suppress his surprise as his opponent began to draw his good things out of that empty bag. Penny off the income tax; abolition of the duty on fire insurance; ditto the duty on omnibuses, cabs, and all other public vehicles; and ditto the one shilling per quarter on foreign corn, &c. "Where will he get the money from?" those amazed senators seemed to say. The Liberals cheered and laughed. But not so the Opposition. Dull amazement on their faces sat, tinged with vexation, as we thought. And they might well be vexed, to see the wind taken out of their sails in this ingenious way.

SURPRISE IN THE LOBBY.

The lobby was not thronged as we have known it on Budget nights; there was just that miscellaneous assemblage of idle loungers which always congregates early in the evening at this time of year. Some wishing to get into the galleries, but most of them mere idlers, who, having nothing to do but to kill time, dropped in to see what was going on. There were no special knots of people. Nothing of a pleasant nature was, you see, expected to come out of this Budget. "He'll put a penny on the income tax, I suppose," was the remark on everybody's lips. Had it been known what was in that despatch-box which the Chancellor of the Exchequer took with him as he entered the House, the lobby would have been crowded with cab proprietors, omnibus company directors, and representatives of all the insurance companies in London. But they were all away, little dreaming that our Chancellor of the Exchequer was about to revolutionise their trades and pour a cornucopia of blessing into their laps. We have said that the loungers in the lobby were incredulous when a messenger came out and said that Mr. Lowe meant to take a penny off the income tax. "He means, put it on," said a sagacious old fellow well known there. "To be sure," exclaimed another; "he can't take it off." But when it was discovered that the news was true, and when one by one other items of intelligence came out, astonishment knew no bounds. The telegraph clerks in the central hall had, be sure, no light time of it that night, for such news as that had to be promptly "wired" all over the kingdom, and across the Channel, too.

A SHARP FIGHT.

On Friday week there was a smart fight between Mr. Hunt and Mr. Gladstone. What it was about few readers of the morning

papers next day probably discovered. Nor is it worth while to give any explanation here. The fight was hot while it lasted. Fortunately, it did not last long, and when the noise had ceased, and the smoke had cleared away, we found that not much harm had been done. Feathers had been ruffled, but none lost. Hot words had been used, but no wounds inflicted. Mr. Hunt began the fight. He had read certain speeches which Mr. Gladstone delivered when he was campaigning in Lancashire. Some charges therein against the late Government, and Mr. Hunt in particular, riled the right hon. gentleman, and ever since he has been nursing his wrath to keep it warm till fit opportunity should come to give it vent. That night the opportunity presented itself, and then out it came, spitting and spluttering right into Gladstone's face. Mr. Gladstone, as we all know, is not the man to take this sort of thing quietly. He is Scotch, and he has a good deal of the Scotch thistle about him, which, we believe, is described by naturalists as belonging to the genus *impatiens*. Whilst Mr. Hunt was speaking, we could see that the Prime Minister was in a state of ferment, and that as soon as the ex-Chancellor sat down he would catch it; and he did catch it, hot and strong, and it is but justice to him to say that he took his punishment with most praiseworthy philosophy. Of course Mr. Disraeli had to rush into the ring. No youthful squire anxious to win his spurs ever delighted more in the clash of arms than the Conservative chief. And, though he is getting old now and cannot handle the fighting tools as he once did, he still loves the lists where he first achieved fame. Of course, the Conservative papers have since lectured Gladstone on his temper. That is the rôle. But it is all mere rubbish, readers. Hunt was as warm as Gladstone, and if Disraeli was not excited, he simulated excitement. For our part, we do not dislike these occasional storms. The House would be a dull place without them, and they really do no harm.

MR. SERJEANT DOWSE, & C.

Mr. Serjeant Dowse deserves a paragraph, for he is a character. Londonderry sends him to the House—Protestant Londonderry; but, strange enough, not to oppose, but to support, Gladstone's bill. Mr. Dowse is Irish—every inch of him—by birth, in feature, in brogue, and character. He is a middle-aged man, about forty-five, also of middle height, and rather rotund. He wears a bushy sandy beard, we can therefore see only the upper part of his face; but that is enough to tell us that he is brimfull of fun and humour. Of course he is eloquent; what true Irishman is not? But for rapidity in speaking we would back him against the field. Whiteside is a rapid speaker, Gathorne Hardy more so; but Dowse would say twice as many words in a minute as either of these. Of him it may be truly said "panting Time tore after him in vain." But his principal characteristic is his humour. Whenever he rises we at once get our cachinnatory apparatus ready for work. He is not witty, but humorous. His humour, however, like all Irish humour, is but thin and evanescent. It owes much of its point to a certain archness of manner, the tones and inflection of the voice, and his Irish accent. We have turned to the report of his speeches in the *Times* to see if we could discover wherein lay his humour; but we found that it was nearly all evaporated, and we wondered why we laughed. Mr. Dowse is certainly a power in the House—a power to make us laugh; but whether he has any other power, deponent declines at present to say.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

EARL RUSSELL rose to call attention to the question of life peerages and to bring in a bill on the subject. The noble Lord, having stated that he did not desire his propositions should be treated in a party spirit, went on to explain the principles of his bill. He believed that life peerages might be created with great advantage to the character and stability of the House, and with satisfaction to the country at large. At the same time he thought the power of making life peers should be limited, and therefore he would propose that not more than four in any one year should be created, and that the whole number should be fixed at twenty-eight, thus spreading the operation over seven years. The noble Earl then proceeded at some length to explain his reasons for thinking it would be more advantageous to create life peerages than to confer hereditary rank in particular cases, and then stated the class of persons from which he intended the life peers should be drawn. As the secret of the power and greatness of the House of Commons was to be found in the Reform Bills of 1832 and 1867, so he thought a higher degree of power and usefulness would open to the peers if they agreed to deal with passing events in a spirit of forbearance and generosity, and to render more varied the characteristics of the assembly.

The Marquis of SALISBURY approved the principle of the bill, and criticised some of its details, urging strongly the necessity for great caution in selecting the persons to be created life peers.

Lord CAIRNS thought the number of peerages, to create which power was proposed to be taken, too large; one a year would in his opinion be sufficient.

Earl GRANVILLE, on the part of the Government, declined at the present stage to express any opinion on the bill, but promised that its provisions should have careful consideration.

The bill was, after a few remarks from Lords STANHOPE and COLCHESTER, read the first time.

SCOTCH AND IRISH REPRESENTATIVE PEERS.

Earl GREY obtained leave to introduce a bill to amend the laws relating to the election of representative peers of Scotland and Ireland.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Lord Napier's Salary Bill, the Mutiny Bill, and the Marine Mutiny Bill were each read the third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

Mr. Bruce explained, in answer to Mr. Eaton, the circumstances under which Mr. Macdonald, the Treasury messenger, was arrested for loitering by the police, and stated that the mistake mainly originated in the obstinate refusal of Mr. Macdonald to give his name and state his business when required to do so. Mr. Bruce subsequently told Mr. Vernon Harcourt that a bill would probably be laid on the table this Session on the subject of the neutrality laws. Questions were then asked in reference to the Budget by Mr. Barnett and Mr. Macleod. Sir H. Verney, at the request of Mr. Gladstone, agreed to postpone for a short time his motion in reference to the arrangements between the dominion of Canada and the Hudson's Bay Company.

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS.

Mr. FAWCETT, in a speech of some length, brought forward a motion for opening all appointments to the civil and diplomatic services to competition, and divided the House upon it, although the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Stanley, and Mr. Gladstone, who took part in the discussion, tried to persuade him from doing so. The House, in fact, anxious not to give an opinion adverse to the motion, divided on the motion to go into Committee of Supply, which was carried by 281 to 30 votes.

MONDAY, APRIL 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Duke of ARGYLL, in compliance with appeals made to him by petitions from outside, and by noble Lords inside the House, consented to postpone going into Committee on the Parochial Schools (Scotland) Bill until the 2nd or 3rd prox.

The Salmon Fisheries (Ireland) Bill and the Railway Companies' Meetings Bill were read the second time, and the East India Irrigation Bill was read the third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

Mr. C. GILPIN's bill for the abolition of capital punishment was brought in and read the first time.

BRANDING SOLDIERS.

Sir C. O'LOGHLEN, in answer to Lord Garlies, denied the statement which appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* to the effect that, since flogging in the Army had been abolished by the Legislature, the Horse Guards authorities had insisted that deserters and military offenders should be branded again and again, without regard to the first inflexible mark.

RETIREMENT OF BISHOPS.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in answer to Sir M. Lopes, while admitting the disadvantages to which dioceses were exposed by being in the care of Bishops of advanced age, thought that the remedy for this state of things should originate with the Bishops themselves, and believed that they had already taken it in their consideration.

MR. LOWE'S FINANCIAL SCHEME.

On the House going into Committee of Ways and Means for the purpose of considering the financial measures of the Government, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER explained that he only asked that

his resolutions should be agreed to pro forma, and upon the understanding that they would have no binding effect until the measure for carrying out the contemplated administrative changes had received the assent of the House.

Mr. W. HUNT had no objection to the resolutions relating to the corn duty, the income tax, the repeal of assessed taxes, and the duties on locomotion being agreed to, with the view of basing a bill upon them; but he suggested that the other portions of the scheme, which involved the administrative changes and the new mode of collection, should be included in a separate measure.

After a lengthened debate, the resolutions for repealing the Customs duties on corn, grain, meal, &c. (on and after June 1), granting income tax at the nominal rate of 6d., and repealing assessed taxes, Excise locomotion duties, the duty on fire insurances, and Excise duties on tea licenses, were agreed to and progress reported.

SUPPLY.

The House afterwards went into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates, and agreed to the votes for clothing, &c.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House sat for half an hour, and passed the Railway Companies' Meetings Bill through Committee, and read the Naval Stores Bill the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

Mr. MONSELL said, in answer to Mr. Sartorius, that after May next there would be no Imperial troops left in New Zealand; and, in answer to Mr. Adderley, he sketched the terms on which the Hudson's Bay Company had consented to surrender their privileges to the Crown, the principal of which was that they should receive a money payment of £300,000 and a twentieth part of the most fertile district of the territory.

Other questions were asked in reference to the crypt under St. Stephen's Chapel, the estates of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, St. Luke's Hospital, the concentration of the public offices, the employment of women and children in agriculture, military chaplains, &c.

THE IRISH SOCIETY.

Mr. MAGUIRE then rose to move an address to her Majesty, praying for the issue of a Commission to inquire into the administration of the estates of the Irish Society. In the course of a long and able speech Mr. Maguire contended that the society had not carried out the intentions of King James, or fulfilled the conditions on which the land was granted to them. He drew particular attention to their mismanagement at Derry, which he said was enough in itself to prove that the society was an anachronism, and ought to be put an end to.

Mr. Alderman LAWRENCE called upon the Government not to grant the inquiry, and endeavoured to make out a case for the society.

Mr. Serjeant DOWSE supported Mr. Maguire's motion, and Mr. R. P. DAWSON argued on the same side.

Other members took part in the debate; at the close of which the Government declined to accede to the motion, but promised that the question should receive their careful consideration.

Mr. MAGUIRE, expressing himself satisfied with the statement of the Irish Secretary, withdrew his motion.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MURPHY'S LECTURES.

Mr. S. AYTOUN asked the Secretary for the Home Department whether he was aware that a proclamation had been issued by Mr. Edward Shelton, Mayor of the borough of Tynemouth, giving notice that any persons attending the lecture to be delivered by Mr. Murphy, at North Shields, on the 5th, 6th, and 7th inst., and who should pay money for admission to the place where such lectures were to be delivered, were liable to a penalty of £20, under the provisions of the Act 39 Geo. III.; and whether, in his opinion, the Mayor of Tynemouth had, by issuing such a proclamation, exceeded his authority.

Mr. BRUCE—I have to say I am aware that such proclamation was issued, and hope that in doing so the Mayor of Tynemouth has not exceeded his authority, inasmuch as he acted under my authority and by my direction.

PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

Mr. RUSSELL GURNEY, in moving the second reading of the Married Women's Property Bill, said that at present anything possessed by a woman at the time of her marriage passed, under the common law, by the act of marriage to the husband; not only was that the case, but any property acquired by her after marriage or anything she earned passed to her husband. Through the medium of trustees under deeds of settlement and the action of the Court of Chancery the property of the married woman could be now preserved from the control of her husband, and it was proposed by this bill to place the married woman in the position she could now only obtain through the instrumentality of the Court of Chancery. The hon. member explained that if the bill should be read the second time, and the principle of the bill thus affirmed, he should ask the House to refer the bill to a Select Committee.

The motion for the second reading was seconded by Mr. JESSEL, who contended that the position of married women in regard to the possession of property is no better than that of the female slave under the Roman law, and might be considered as a relic of slavery.

Mr. LOPES moved an amendment to postpone the second reading for six months. While admitting that some measure might be expedient, he considered that the present bill goes too far. While the husband was subject to the responsibilities at present devolving upon him he should retain the advantages possessed by him. Certainly if they took away the advantages possessed by the husband they should at the same time remove the liabilities under which he at present labours. He urged that the case of settlements and the provisions of the bill were different.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. A. STAVELLEY HILL; but, after a short debate, the bill was read the second time, and ordered to be referred to a Select Committee.

SUNDAY TRADING.

The House next went into Committee on the Sunday Trading Bill, and, several amendments having been proposed, it was moved that the Chairman report progress, in order that the amendments might be printed. The Committee negatived this proposition by a majority of 88; but, after some discussion, the Chairman was permitted to report progress.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord Lawrence took the oath and his seat, introduced by the Duke of Argyll and Lord Chelmsford.

The Railway Companies' Meetings Bill was read the third time and passed.

The Salmon Fisheries (Ireland) and the Naval Stores Bill passed through Committee.

ECCLÉSIASTICAL COURTS BILL.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY, in moving the second reading of this bill, pointed out the anomalous condition of the present law. The necessity of legislation was vindicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury having brought forward a bill on the subject. The right rev. prelate had done him the honour to incorporate in his bill several clauses of his (the noble Earl's) bill. His Lordship said the principal objects of his bill were to cheapen and expedite the mode of procedure, to provide a superior Judge to the two courts of criminal appeal, to provide proper Judges in the diocesan courts, to provide juries to try issues of fact, to admit solicitors to practise in the ecclesiastical courts, and to restore to the clergy certain rights of which they had been deprived. He contended that under his bill the procedure would be rendered as speedy and inexpensive as any system that could be devised. He regretted that he had not received more support from the Episcopal Bench.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY said that the Episcopal Bench were not actuated by any feeling of hostility to the proposal of the noble Earl, but on the contrary, for a very long time they had had bill after bill upon the subject under their consideration. He had himself a bill now standing for second reading which was directed to the same objects as the noble Earl's, and he had no objection to both measures being referred to the same Select Committee.

Earl GRANVILLE said that it would require some nice discrimination to distinguish what difference there was between the two bills; and if they were not to go before a Select Committee, the House ought to decide which they would reject and proceed with the other; but he recommended them to send both to a Select Committee.

After a few remarks from the Earl of Carnarvon, the Earl of Harrowby, Lord Cairns, and the Earl of Shaftesbury, the bill was read the second time.

CLERGY DISCIPLINE AND ECCLÉSIASTICAL COURTS BILL.

On the motion of the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, this bill was read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

Mr. WHALLEY gave notice that, on the motion for going into Committee on the Irish Church Bill, he should move that it be an instruction to the Committee that any surplus funds out of the revenues of the Irish Church, after providing for compensation of existing interests, be appropriated to the payment of the National Debt.

On the reading of the order of the day for the Committee on the Irish Church Bill,

Mr. S. Aytoun rose to move "That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to dissolve the Corporation of the Trustees of the College of Maynooth, and to provide that no money be paid over to the said trustees, but that only compensation fairly due to the professors and students consequent on the loss suffered by them by the withdrawal of the Maynooth grant be paid to them by the Commissioners appointed by the bill, in the same manner and according to the same principles as is provided

by the bill with regard to the incumbents of the Anglican Church and the recipients of the Regium Donum."

The SPEAKER interrupted the hon. member, and said his instruction was out of order, and the rules of the House did not allow him to put such a motion.

Mr. NEWDEGATE then rose to move "That this House will, upon this day six months, resolve itself into the said Committee." He said he spoke for 446,000 people of the middle of England, with whom he had been associated as their member for twenty-six years, and said he and they objected to the passing such a bill because they felt that if the Protestant Church in Ireland were to be disestablished there was nothing whatever to interfere with the establishment of the Roman Catholic Church in that country. The bill, too, would lessen the Royal supremacy in Ireland, and would lessen also the power of the law. The bill was the demand of the Papacy and not that of the Irish people. Cardinal Cullen, in 1865, attacked the oath taken by members of the House of Commons, and that attack, there was every reason to believe, was in accordance with instructions received from Rome. The right hon. gentleman (Mr. Gladstone) said, during the recent debate, that there was not a ray of ascendancy in Scotland. Had the right hon. gentleman forgotten that the Queen attended the Kirk in Scotland? and did not her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner preside over the General Assembly? What were they asked to do? Why, to sweep away Protestantism, to establish a new order of things, and to set up the authority of the Pope in these kingdoms. The object of the present bill was to imperil the supremacy of the Crown in Ireland, and to do injustice to the loyal part of the Irish population.

After observations from several members, both for and against the measure.

Mr. GLADSTONE considered that the discussion had reached such a stage that the most business-like proceeding would be to go at once into Committee. One hon. member had objected to the vague terms of the proposition relative to Maynooth. But there were Acts of Parliament relative to the trust of Maynooth, and it was with reference to these that the Government had been guided, as he would show when the bill was in Committee. It had been said that the large majority did not entirely approve of the bill, but he could assert all the party were united. Could the opposite side say the same? It had been said that the second reading of the bill had been carried by the Roman Catholics; but supposing that every Roman Catholic member had walked out of the House, the result would have been the same. As regards the feeling of the country, it had shown approval of the principles of the Government with regard to this question by the large majority it had sent to that House to support that principle. The fear that this measure would be followed by the establishment of the authority of the Pope in Ireland was shared in only by hon. members on the other side of the House. He denied emphatically that the throne of England rested alone on Protestant ascendancy, and said that the measure he proposed was not the embodiment of a new idea, but was associated with a policy as far back as William III.

Mr. DISRAELI said he thought it necessary to explain the course he should feel it to be his duty to take in the division, if a division were necessary. He came down to the House prepared to go into Committee, as he had matter to propose when they got there. He did not know whether Mr. Newdegate would feel it necessary to divide the House on his motion; but, if he did, after the division no further obstacle would be made to the progress of the bill. The right hon. gentleman defended the course the members on his side of the House had taken in the debate, and thought the terms applied to them were not deserved.

The House then divided, when the numbers were—For going into Committee, 355; for the amendment, 229; majority, 126.

The House then went into Committee pro forma, when the preamble was postponed, and they reported progress.

THE CONSERVATIVE MEETING.

(From the "Owl.")

A LITTLE before two o'clock on Monday the Conservative Owl put on his ultra-Tory manners and repaired to the Carlton. There were the usual signs always observable at times of great political crises. Great activity in the dining-room, portly forms engaged on luncheons of Hon. proportions, a general harassing of waiters, and, considering the heat of the weather, a most unseasonable demand for the old brown sherry, gave evidence that, by this fortifying of the individual, serious action was imminent in defence of the national Constitution. Members collected here and there in small knots, which the chief bores of the establishment, acting on this occasion as a sort of police, were very useful in dispersing. When all had been well filled, compact phalanxes advanced upon Carlton House-terrace.

Passing Mr. Gladstone's door, where each member devoutly crossed himself, spat, and uttered a brief exorcism, a few flaps brought the Owl to the purer atmosphere of Lonsdale House. In a spacious and handsome apartment the diminished but determined band who still stand true to their Church and Queen were soon assembled. Some appeared absorbed in thought and profound melancholy, and generally there was discernible a certain amount of depression, a subdued feeling—a sort of going-to-church arrangement of the features, possibly induced by the magnificence of the furniture; and a slight exertion of the imagination would have placed the assembly before the mental eye as the male relatives of some gigantic testator, all equally related to the deceased, assembled to hear the reading of his will while in complete ignorance of its provisions. Yet even here the deep-rooted English prerogative of betting was in exercise, and 3 to 1 was laid freely against any one naming the first speaker, bar one; and 5 to 1 (no takers) that Sir George Jenkinson did speak at some period of the proceedings. A complication occurred in respect of the former bet by Lord John Manners, who, with courtly solemnity, requested some of the shyer members to occupy some especial damask-covered chairs which had hitherto been considered either sacred or infected, and avoided by all. This being done in the usual strident tones which have long grated on the Parliamentary ear, was held by some to constitute a speech. This the layers of odds repudiated, and the case will be referred to the Jockey Club.

After some impatience, expressed in the usual manner, by a sort of spirit-rapping mania having possessed the Conservative umbrellas, Great Dizzy, solemnly preceded by the imposing form of General Forester, entered, and took his place at the head of the table, surrounded by the chief celebrities of the party, among whom, with unaffected grace, Sir George Jenkinson installed himself next to his leader, and the interesting spectacle of rising genius in immediate juxtaposition with accomplished fame caused the Owl many deep and philosophical reflections.

Mr. Disraeli then, first cautioning the meeting to beware of intrusting any of their proceedings to the numerous reporters waiting hungrily outside, in his most earnest and best manner requested his honourable friends to relinquish all their little hobbies, amateur attempts, and fancy amendments, and be good children and do exactly as they were bid. He then read out his prescription for purging the bill, which was unanimously approved, though a few wished it had been a little stronger; and, after hoping that hon. members would consent to sacrifice their social arrangements—i.e., snug little dinners, recherché cuisine, and placens uxor, and feed nightly and dyspeptically amidst the sudorific horrors of the House of Commons' dining-room, an animated and sensible peroration closed a well-cheered and quite successful speech.

Several more or less influential members then favoured the meeting with eloquent dittos to Mr. Disraeli, and it was at one time feared that Sir George Jenkinson would not speak after all. He, however, set these fears at rest by inquiring with a modesty which, considering his position and talent, was the cause of some surprise—whether Mr. Disraeli was prepared to give precedence to his amendments, which he hinted were not dissimilar to those of the right hon. gentleman, only better expressed.

Mr. Disraeli replied that he had lain awake several nights admiring the hon. Baronet's amendments, but that as rule it was hardly fair to the rest of the House to crowd the notice-paper with such brilliant exhibitions; that, however, was a matter of tact and taste, both of which qualities the hon. Baronet possessed in such profusion that he left him entirely to the dictates of his own discretion.

Sir George Jenkinson appeared very much pleased at this graceful compliment, which, however, seemed to be regarded in a dubious light by many present, and the meeting dissolved enthusiastically, hustling in their departure a venerable gentleman who accidentally happened to be the owner of the mansion.

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BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.

It is a curious fact, and one that has been made matter of public comment both in England and in America, that actions for "breach of promise" appear to be more frequent than they used to be. Not the least striking points in connection with this topic are that men more frequently bring the action than they formerly did; that juries seem disposed to give higher damages than have been customary; and that all the enormously increased publicity, which is the result of the activity of the press, appears to have no effect in deterring people from presenting themselves in a light which is admitted to be ridiculous. One of the Judges—we believe it was Mr. Baron Bramwell—has openly avowed from the bench his opinion that the action for breach of promise is rather a discreditable sort of thing; and Baron Wilde, not long ago, stated that, in his capacity of Judge of another court, he should always lean to the side of private arrangements for separation rather than to that of public suits in cases of the class which come under his peculiar jurisdiction. Yet, as has been stated, actions of the order just referred to increase rather than decrease, and there is no indication that the delicacy and sense of honour of the English population in general are at all up to the mark which prompted the words of Baron Wilde.

There are many reasons which go to make an action for breach of promise ridiculous and discreditable. In the first place, the mere uncovering of what are called affairs of the heart ought always to be a painful thing; so that it may perhaps be said that no one worth marrying, no one fit to be a husband or a wife, in the high sense of these words, ever brought the action in question. Then, again, it is impossible that the whole truth should be spoken or that justice should be done in any such matters. It is more than conceivable, it is undoubtedly what frequently occurs, that the true reason for the withdrawal is one which the defendant either will not or cannot state, and yet that it is a sound and good reason. At the same time it is readily admitted that in the majority of breach-of-promise cases the parties concerned appear both to be rather inferior people; and that when the defendant is a man, he is almost always a very ill-conditioned person, so far as we can judge from the evidence. Briefly, as there ought to be some means of keeping scamps and cads in order, and as the sort of women who are likely to be deceived by scamps and cads are not themselves beings of high rank in the scale of creation, this sort of action must be looked at with a little practical forbearance.

Two reasons may be assigned for the apparent increase in the number of such actions. One is the great stringency, so to speak, of the husband market, which makes women feel more vindictively than ever towards a seceder. Another is the greater indulgence which juries have lately shown to plaintiffs in such cases; encouraging people to sue for breach of promise by giving what are called exemplary damages. Of late years we have had in England one of those panics of public morality which Macaulay declared were periodical in this country, and common juries jumble up this particular topic with others which they fancy are cognate. Yet, as it may safely be said that in proportion as the morality of a country is high there is a tendency both to reticence in these matters and to keeping them at a distance from lower (for example, pecuniary) considerations, it cannot be said that the action for breach of promise is one which it is desirable to encourage in the smallest degree.

TRAMWAYS.

WE are to have street tramways. The commencement is to be experimental, and is to be confined chiefly to wide streets on the south of the river; but there can be no difficulty in predicting that the system will hereafter be extended, and will prove a public benefit. In Copenhagen, in Geneva, in Vienna, at Birkenhead, and elsewhere, the plan has been tried, and has succeeded. Mr. Train's well-known line from Kennington Park to Westminster Bridge had obvious disadvantages of construction, tending to "skid" wheels and break axles; but these defects will be avoided under the new system, in which the trams will be grooved below the level of the road. If the proprietors will have the wisdom to make their omnibuses what it would be very easy to make them—if they will ventilate them well, without exposing passengers to draughts, and if they will manage to give knee and elbow room—they will not only receive a return in a large traffic, but they will set a very necessary example to the omnibus proprietors, who at present send out old, dirty, ill-fashioned, ill-aired, unhealthy vehicles, manned by conductors who are most of them quite unfit for their duties. They are a most hard-worked race of

men, and their grievances will fall to be considered some day; but it is useless to pretend that they are up to the ordinary necessities of their calling. They do not even look out sharp for passengers, and they allow straw a week old to remain inside the carriages—some of it straw that would be turned out of a stable. We congratulate the southern suburbs on their prospects, and confidently anticipate an extension of the tramway system.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has conferred the Albert medal of the second class on Mr. James Crowden, one of the chief officers of coastguard in Scotland, for great gallantry displayed in saving life on more than one occasion.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND SUITE started last Saturday afternoon for the Crimea, after luncheon in the palace of the Sultan.

PRINCE LEOPOLD was so ill last Saturday as to be unable to travel by train with the Queen. The Prince left Buckingham Palace in the morning in advance of her Majesty, and travelled in a carriage by road to Windsor.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE and her Royal Highness Princess Teck have consented to extend their special patronage to the morning concert to be given at St. George's Hall, on behalf of the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, on Tuesday, May 4.

LORD HYDE has gone down to Brecon as a candidate for the seat vacated by the decision against the return of Mr. Howel Gwyn. It is understood that the son of Lord Clarendon has a good prospect of success.

CHARLES HENRY FULLER, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets, on the retired list, has been awarded the Greenwich Hospital pension of £50 a year, vacant by the death of Surgeon James Hall, M.D.

THE INAUGURATION of a statue of Marshal Masséna took place at Nice on Monday. Admiral Jurien de la Gravière attended the ceremony on the part of the Emperor.

MR. MICHAEL COSTA, the eminent musical conductor, was introduced to her Majesty by the Lord Chamberlain, at a Council, on Wednesday, and received the honour of knighthood.

SIR ROUNDELL PALMER'S SPEECH, delivered in the House of Commons on the second reading of the Irish Church Bill, has been published as a pamphlet by Messrs. Macmillan and Co.

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT has appointed an emigration agent to travel in its interest on the Continent of Europe.

THE DEATH IS ANNOUNCED OF SISTER SAINT-TERESE at the Hôtel-Dieu of Rouen, to which institution she had been attached for fifty-four years. She was born at Havre, March 14, 1769.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS, supported by the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, will preside at the dinner to be given in behalf of the funds of the News-vendors' Benevolent and Provident Institution, at Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, the 26th inst.

GEORGE HUDSON, the ex-Railway King, is reported to be living abroad in absolute poverty.

MR. WILLIAM BRADBURY, of the well-known publishing firm of Messrs. Bradbury and Evans, has just died, at the age of seventy. He had been many years in business with Mr. Frederick Mullet Evans as a publisher.

MR. MONTAGUE GUEST, son of Sir John Guest, of London, has arrived to contest the borough of Youghal with Sir J. N. McKenna.

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE DAUGHTERS OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMY, Lansdowne, Bath, has had two legacies, of £500 each, bequeathed to it under the will of the late Mr. William Thomas, of 20, Boltons, Brompton, one immediate and the other reversionary. During his life Mr. Thomas was a generous contributor to the funds of this institution.

THE DEGREE OF LL.D. has recently been conferred on John Ryley Robinson, F.S.A. Scotland, Member of the Société Asiatique de Paris, &c., of Dewsbury, Yorkshire, author of "Esther," "The Deluge," "Joseph," &c.

THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER (Prince Thomas of Savoy) has just entered at Harrow School. While there he will be in the family of Mr. Matthew Arnold, who is residing at Harrow. The young Prince brings no suite with him. He will be at liberty on Sundays to attend Roman Catholic service in London.

THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT for the Abyssinian expedition was, according to a telegram from Bombay, £6,820,000. The expense for the hire and fitting up of transports amounted to £3,250,000, and for coals, &c., £850,000. The accounts were to be sent home on the 10th inst.

IN THE TOWN OF BISHOP AUCKLAND there are only four master printers and stationers, and the Auckland papers of the 9th inst. recorded only four births. Singularly enough, the four mothers of those four babies were the four wives of those four printers—namely, Mr. G. E. Briggs, Mr. W. J. Cummins, Mr. M. Braithwaite, and Mr. S. Cherrett.

A BOY was charged before the Birmingham magistrates, on Saturday, with vagrancy, having been found sleeping in a wagon. His mother appeared, and, on being asked what religion she professed, with a view to her son being sent to a reformatory, she replied, "I go cleaning and working."

A FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT occurred on Tuesday at Saltburn-by-the-Sea. An iron bridge, 100 ft. in length, across the famous glen along which Skelton Beck runs to the coast, was nearly completed, when an immense iron girder slipped from its holding, and knocked down one of the piers, killing three men.

THE JUNIOR CARLTON CLUB had a narrow escape from destruction by fire on Monday morning. The interior of the building has suffered very considerable damage, and, although the persons sleeping on the premises escaped, they did so in the face of much difficulty and danger. The origin of the fire has not been ascertained.

JAMES MAGILL, a discharged servant of the Irish Midland Railway Company, was sentenced to penal servitude for five years, at Dublin, on Monday, for sending a letter threatening death to Mr. R. S. Cusack, chairman of the company. Anketell, the man murdered at Mullingar, was in the service of the same company.

MESSRS. REED, BAZLEY, GRAVES, AND M'ARTHUR have prepared and brought in a bill proposing that, from Sept. 30 next, free Sunday and ragged schools for gratuitous instruction shall be exempt from poor rates. The Act is not to extend to Ireland.

THE BISHOP OF EXETER has collated his grandson, the Rev. Henry Houssemayne Du Boulay, M.A., of Exeter College, Oxford, his domestic Chaplain, to the Vicarage of Stithney, near Helston, vacant by the death of the Rev. William Thomas, M.A. The tithe rent charge is £435, glebe eighteen acres. Mr. Du Boulay has not been long in holy orders, and is a comparative stranger to the diocese; hence some little feeling in the county about the appointment.

ONE OF THE LARGEST FIRES that has occurred in the metropolis for several months past broke out, on Monday night, in the extensive hop warehouses of Mr. Frith, situated at the bottom of the Spur Inn and King's Head yards, in High-street, Southwark. It is not known how the fire originated, or whether Mr. Frith was insured, but the property destroyed is estimated at over £50,000.

A TAILOR, named Crawshaw, kicked and beat his wife to death in Miller-street, Manchester, on Sunday morning, because she refused to pay for drink which he had asked some associates to share with him in a public-house. He is in custody.

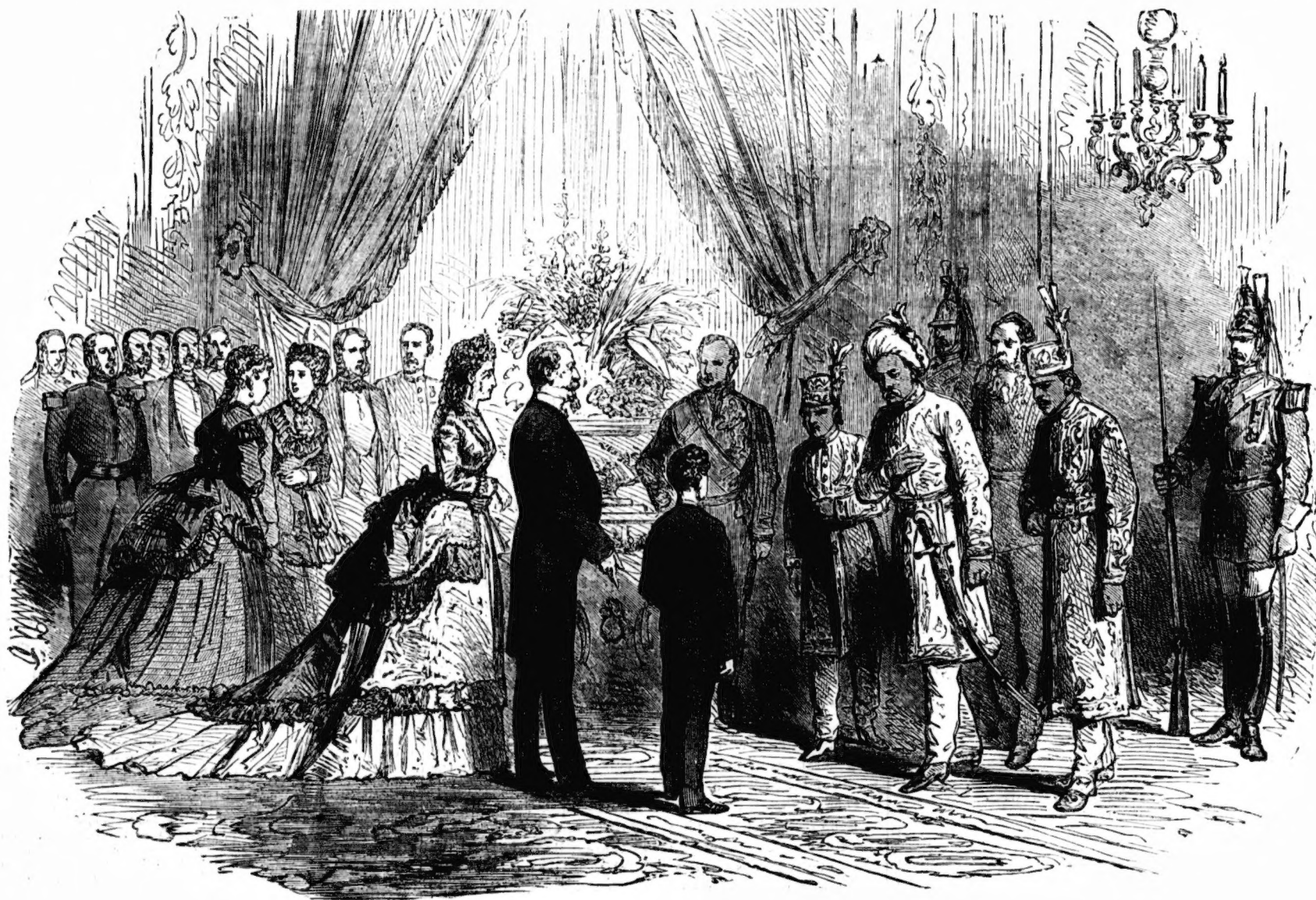
A NOTIFICATION has been received at Chatham from the Admiralty announcing that any of the workmen employed in the dockyard, as well as those recently discharged, who have served two years, may be considered eligible candidates to be sent out to Canada at the expense of the Government. It is necessary, however, that the applicants should bear a good character, be of sound health, and be provided with a minimum sum of £2 15s.

ABOUT THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY PERSONS, selected by the managers of the East London Emigration Fund, left the St. Pancras station of the Midland Railway, on Tuesday, for Liverpool, whence they proceeded to Canada. The greater number of them were formerly residents in the eastern districts of the metropolis, which have suffered so lamentably from the effects of the commercial crisis of 1866.

THE LORD ADVOCATE was entertained at a banquet in St. James's Hall, last Saturday, by his London friends and constituents. The Duke of Argyll was in the chair, and he presided over a numerous and distinguished company. Letters of apology were read from Mr. Gladstone, Lord Stanley, and the Lord Chief Justice. General Wylie; Mr. Baxter, M.P.; Lord Campbell, Sir W. Ferguson, the Earl of Arlisle, Mr. Graham, M.P., and the Solicitor-General for Scotland were among the speakers.

LORD ELCHO, as president of the National Rifle Association, has issued a letter to its members placing before them the position and prospects of the institution. His Lordship reminds them that the tenth annual prize-meeting is about to be held, and that, although the existing deficit need not be viewed with alarm, in one way only can the association be placed on a secure basis—namely, by a large increase in the number of subscribing members.

A MEETING under the auspices of the National Emigration Aid Society was held on Monday evening in Exeter Hall. Mr. Thomas Chambers, Q.C., presided; and Lord Alfred Churchill, Mr. R. Torrens, M.P.; Mr. Alexander M'Arthur, and the Rev. A. S. Herring were among the speakers. Resolutions were passed urging the Government to aid a great national movement of emigration, and a deputation was appointed to wait on the Home and Colonial Secretaries in furtherance of this object.



RECEPTION OF THE NAWAB OF BENGAL BY THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON AT THE TUILERIES.

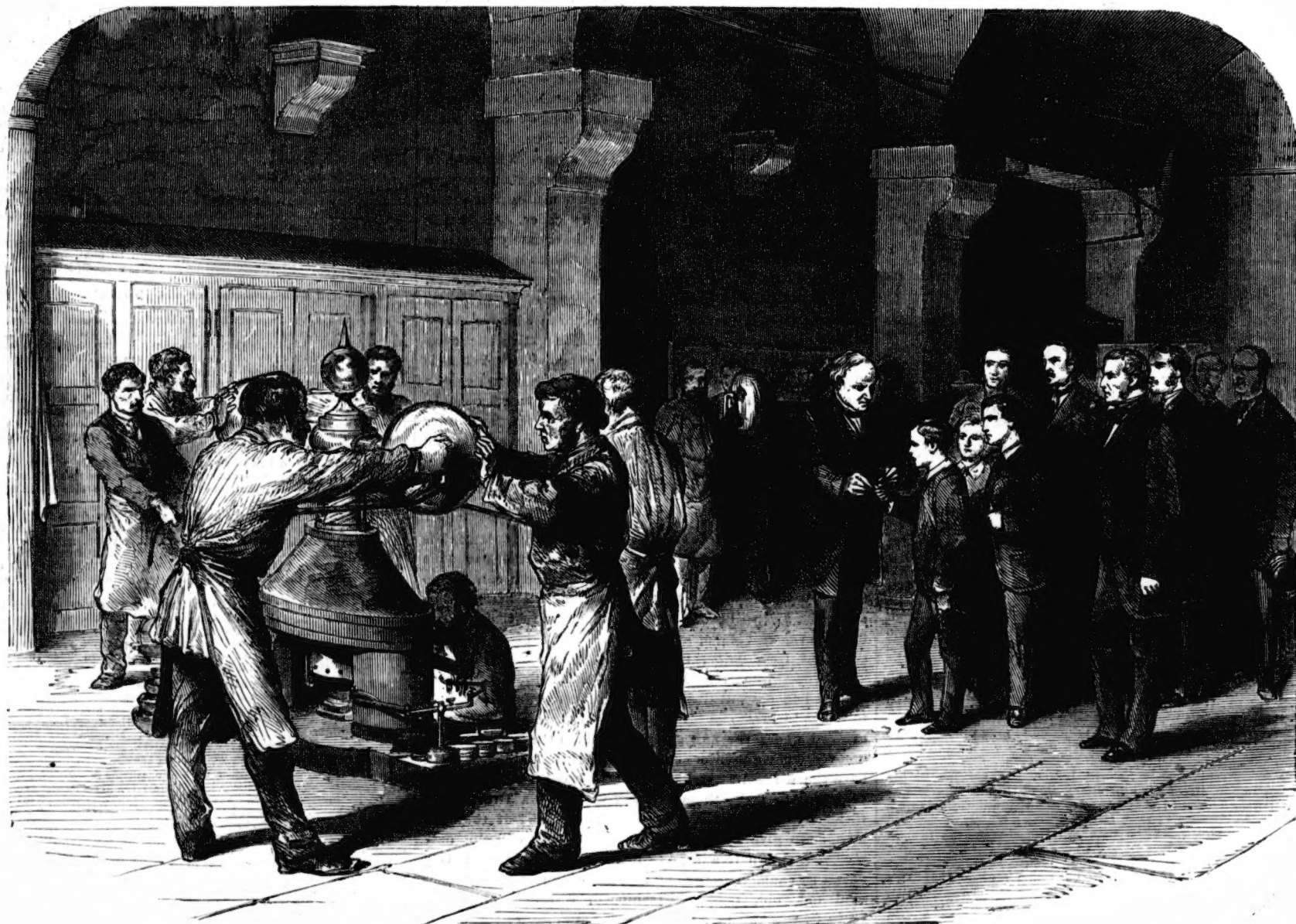
THE NAWAB AT THE TUILERIES.

In our last week's Number we published portraits of the Nawab of Bengal, his two sons, and suite, and we now give an Engraving representing the reception of his Highness by the Emperor Napoleon at the Tuileries shortly before the Indian Prince left Paris. This event was much the same in character as other similar occurrences. The Nawab and his sons were introduced by

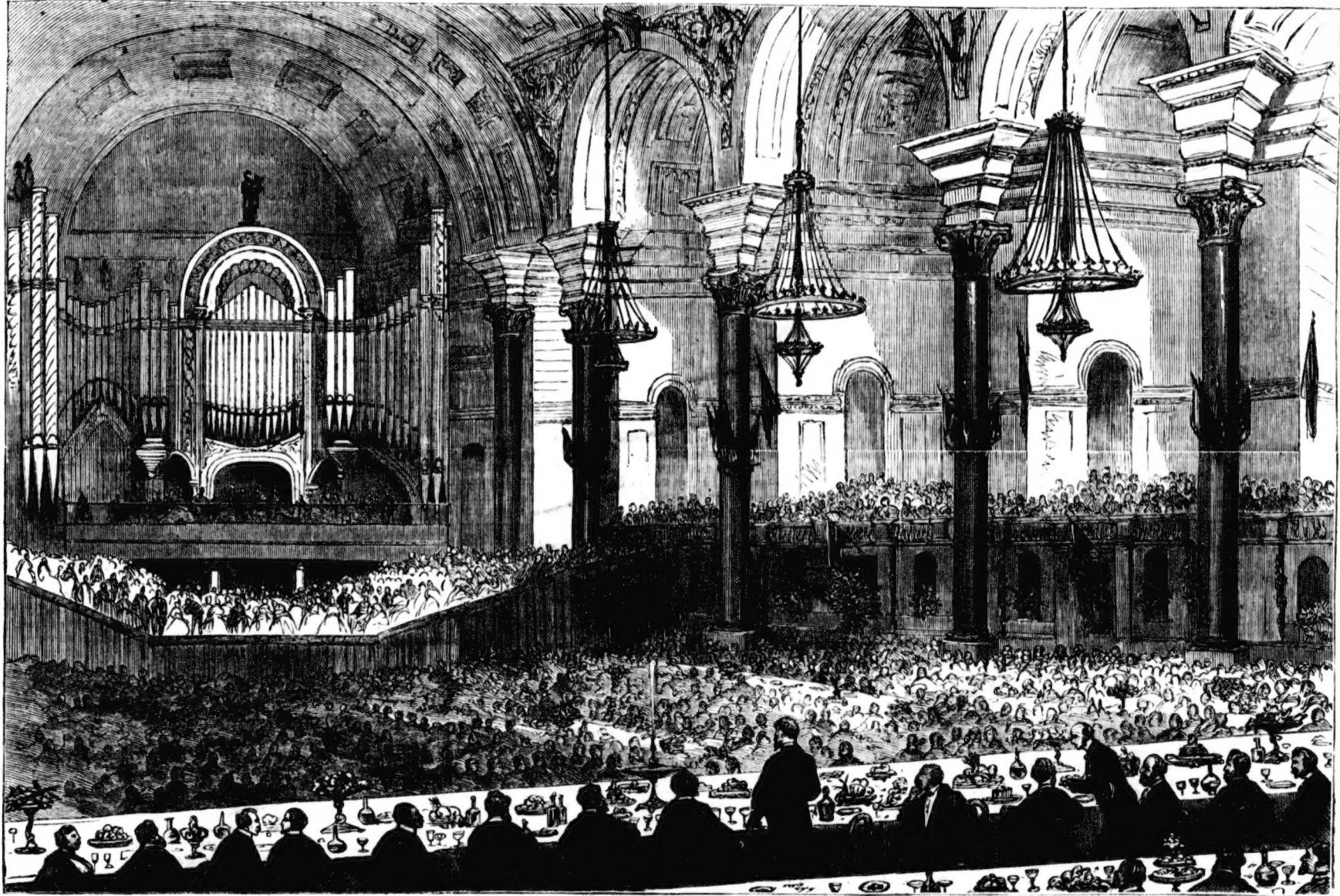
the proper officials with the proper degree of ceremony, and were kindly received by the Emperor; and that is all that need be said of the matter. We may, however, add an anecdote that comes to us from the French capital.

When the Nawab was in Paris he met with the usual fate of lions, and was hunted to death. Among others who solicited a presentation was an elderly young lady of forty-eight, highly

genteel, intensely respectable, very good to the poor, and as strict in morality as she could be to be alive. Her name, we will say, was Popkyns—Miss Popkyns, Singleton Cottage, Batheaston, a place said to be duller even than Bath. Miss P. effected her purpose; was introduced to the Nawab and his son. "What a charming youth!" said Miss P. "Has your Highness any more children?" "Madame," replied the Nabob, "I have eleven sons



VISIT OF THE PRINCE IMPERIAL TO THE PARIS MINT.—SEE PAGE 254.



BANQUET TO CHARLES DICKENS, ESQ., AT LIVERPOOL.



SCENE FROM THE NEW DRAMA, "BLACK AND WHITE," AT THE ADOLPHI THEATRE.—SEE PAGE 254.

and nineteen daughters still living; but then, to be sure, I have thirteen wives!" Exit Miss P. in hysterics; and, indeed, it does rather remind one of Artemus Ward's speech to the Mormon who had forty-six wives: "Well, Sir, and how do you like matrimony as far as you've gone?"

BANQUET TO MR. CHARLES DICKENS AT LIVERPOOL.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS, who has been giving a series of farewell readings in Liverpool, was last Saturday evening entertained at a grand banquet in St. George's Hall, at which the Mayor (Mr. T. Dover) presided. The tables, nineteen in all, were arranged from east to west on the floor of the great hall, the galleries and orchestra being devoted to spectators, who, to the number of about 800, were for the most part in evening dress. The number of ladies and gentlemen who sat down to dinner was between 650 and 700. The hall was magnificently decorated with flags and plants. The invited guests, in addition to the guest of the evening, were the Right Hon. Lord Dufferin, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; M. Alphonse Esquiro, Lord Houghton; Mr. C. H. Dudley, U. S. Consul at Liverpool; Mr. C. E. Norton, Boston, U.S.A.; Mr. A. Trollope, Mr. Palgrave Simpson, &c. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given, Lord Houghton returning thanks for the Houses of Parliament.

Lord Dufferin, in proposing the toast of the evening, "The Health of Mr. Charles Dickens," said, it has been the privilege of Mr. Dickens's genius not only to range through all those more obvious fields of literature, of sentiment, of passion, which are the domain of the poet and the metaphysician, but he has been constantly extending the range of our individual sympathies, and revealing to us, both in ourselves and in each other, depths of feeling which, but for the influences of his art, might long have slept in barren listlessness within our souls. I feel, then, that under these circumstances it would require all Mr. Dickens's universal and delicate power of discrimination to enumerate and define the various elements of grateful emotion which were stirring within the hearts of all those who are assembled in this hall to-night to do him honour. But I think I have incidentally alluded to two special respects in which every one of us will probably acknowledge that he has become the richer through the prodigality of Mr. Dickens's genius. I have said that he has quickened the power and the range of our natural susceptibilities, and created fresh bonds of sympathy between ourselves and our fellow-men. Now, Sir, I cannot but think that the man who enables me to see something more than was before obvious to my dimmer conception, of that hidden beauty which still lurks about this world of ours, or who has enabled me to enter more fully and heartily into communion with the thoughts, and feelings, and wishes of my fellow-men, has conferred upon me a greater benefit than if he had endowed me with a sixth sense or added to the span of my existence. Mr. Mayor, I see that we are to-night honoured with the presence of ladies, and I will venture to appeal to them, at all events, in support of the first part of my proposition. If any single human sentiment may be supposed to be above the illustrative art of the poet, or the stimulus of analytical portraiture, it would be the love of the mother for her child. But is there a mother amongst us who will not readily acknowledge that her appreciative affections have been intensified, and that her intuitive insight into her offspring's thoughts and feelings have been rendered more acute, and that her baby-world has been adorned and illuminated by the magical charm with which childhood has been invested in the stories of Little Nell, Young Dombey, and Tiny Tim? Again, Ladies and Gentlemen, in this work-a-day-world of ours, with its colourless surroundings, its laborious routine, and the depressing monotony with which civilisation seems to have a tendency to stamp the superficial surface of existence, what is our great danger? Is it not this—that we should get to think of life as it presents itself to us in its outer superficial aspect; we should come to think of men and women in their impassive conventional rigidity, and judge of the molten metal by the corrugated film which has gathered round it, instead of by the bright and brilliant current that glows beneath, until, at last, we should refuse to recognise either heroism or moral beauty except when lifted up beyond the sphere of everyday life or else surrounded by some majestic material associations. Ladies and Gentlemen, previous writers have felt this so acutely that they have been in the habit of taking refuge in an Olympus of fiction, peopled by heroes and heroines compacted of the most ethereal materials, or else in scenes of idyllic nonsense equally unsubstantial. Mr. Dickens, however, has had the courage to confront the enigma, and he has shown us how the alchemy of genius can convert the commonest paths of life, the most commonplace and vulgar regions of society, into a perfect kingdom of romance. Under his large-hearted leadership we have come to regard the love affairs of Mr. Swiveller and his Marchioness with greater interest than any elevated ideals of high life, and to look upon the round little figure of Mr. Pickwick with the same loving reverence which we are accustomed to bestow upon the most chivalrous paladin of antiquity. Not only so, but Mr. Dickens has conferred a still further benefit upon us. He has taught rich and poor, the educated and the simple, to recognise their common humanity, not merely by the characteristics of their physical nature, but by their mutual susceptibility to those higher and purer influences which constitute the poetry of life. Well may the masses of his countrymen be grateful to Mr. Dickens for the noble and beautiful irradiation which he has poured down upon their daily lives. Philosophers tell us that the life and heat emitted from the fuel we burn upon our earth is nothing but the redistribution of that sunshine which has been absorbed in former ages by that primeval vegetation which now lies garnered in our coal-fields. In the same manner Mr. Dickens has spread abroad his genial influence through the land; it has become absorbed and assimilated in the hearts of his fellow-countrymen; and now, I imagine, there is not a home in England but has been rendered brighter and more glad some by the reproduction and distribution of that kindly spirit of domestic affection which has been the main purport of his teachings. For, Ladies and Gentlemen, remember that Mr. Dickens has not only made us wiser and better, more loving and more human, but he has taught us the duty of gaiety and the religion of mirth; and yet the lambent play of his wit, and humour, and fancy has only revealed more distinctly the depths of passion in his nature, as the laughter of the sea along its thousand shining shores is but another expression of those immeasurable forces which lie latent in its bosom. It is for these reasons, I imagine, that there have been created between Mr. Dickens and his fellow-countrymen those peculiarities which are so distinct from those which usually exist between an author and his public.

Mr. Dickens, who was received with loud cheers, said:—Mr. Mayor, Ladies, and Gentlemen.—Although I have become so well accustomed of late to the sound of my own voice in this neighbourhood as to hear it with perfect composure, the occasion is, believe me, very, very different in respect of those overwhelming voices of yours. As Professor Wilson once confided to me in Edinburgh that I had not the least idea, from hearing him in public, what a magnificent speaker he found himself to be when he was quite alone, so you can form no conception, from the specimen before you, of the eloquence with which I shall thank you again and again in some of the innermost moments of my future life. Often and often, then, God willing, my memory will recall this brilliant scene, and will re-illuminate this banquet-hall. I, faithful to this place in its present aspect, will observe it exactly as it stands—not one man's seat empty, not one woman's fair face absent, while life and memory abide by me. Mr. Mayor, Lord Dufferin in his speech, so affecting to me, so eloquently uttered, and so rapturously received, made a graceful and gracious allusion to the immediate occasion of my present visit to your noble city. It is no homage to Liverpool, based upon a moment's untrustworthy enthusiasm, but it is the solid fact, built upon the rock of experience, that when I first made up my mind, after considerable

deliberation systematically to meet my readers in large numbers face to face, and to try to express myself to them through the breath of life, Liverpool stood foremost among the great places out of London to which I looked with eager confidence and pleasure. And why was this? Not merely because of the reputation of its citizens for generous estimation of the arts; not merely because I had unworthily filled the chair of its great self-educational institution long ago; not merely because the place had been a home to me since the well-remembered day when its blessed roofs and steeples dipped into the Mersey behind me on the occasion of my first sailing away to see my generous friends across the Atlantic, twenty-seven years ago—not for one of those considerations, but because it had been my happiness to have a public opportunity of testing the spirit of its people. I had asked Liverpool for help towards the worthy preservation of Shakespeare's house. On another occasion I had ventured to address Liverpool in the names of Leigh Hunt and Sheridan Knowles. On still another occasion, I had addressed it in the cause of the brotherhood and sisterhood of letters and the kindred arts, and on each and all the response had been unsurpassably spontaneous, openhanded, and munificent. Mr. Mayor and Ladies and Gentlemen, if I may venture to take a small illustration of my present position from my own peculiar craft, I would say that there is this objection in writing fiction to giving a story an autobiographical form, that through whatever dangers the narrator may pass, it is clear, unfortunately, to the reader beforehand that he must have come through them somehow, else he could not have lived to tell the tale. Now in speaking fact, when the fact is associated with such honours as those with which you have enriched me, there is this singular difficulty in the way of returning thanks, that the speaker must infallibly come back to himself through whatever oratorical disasters he may languish on the road. Let me, then, take the plainer and the simple middle course of dividing myself and you. Let me assure you that whatever you have accepted with pleasure, either by word of pen or by word of mouth, from me, you have greatly improved in the acceptance. As the gold is said to be doubly and trebly refined which has seven times passed the furnace, so a fancy may be said to become more and more refined each time it passes through the human heart. You have, and you know you have, brought to the consideration of me that quality in yourselves without which I should but have beaten the air. Your earnestness has stimulated mine, your laughter has made me laugh, and your tears have overflowed my eyes. All that I can claim for myself in establishing the relations which exist between us is constant fidelity to hard work. My literary fellows about me, of whom I am proud to see so many, know very well how true it is in all art that what seems the easiest done is oftentimes the most difficult to do, and that the smallest truth may come of the greatest pains—much as, it occurred to me at Manchester the other day, the sensitive touch of Mr. Whitworth's measuring-machine—comes at last, of heaven, and Manchester and its Mayor only know how much hammering; my companions-in-arms know thoroughly well, and I think it only right the public should know too, that in our careful toil and trouble, and in our steady striving for excellence—not in any little gifts, misused by fits and starts—lies our highest duty, at once to our calling, to one another, to ourselves, and to you. Ladies and Gentlemen, before sitting down I find that I have to clear myself of two very unexpected accusations. The first is a most singular charge, preferred against me by my old friend Lord Houghton, that I have been somewhat unconscious of the merits of the House of Lords. Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, seeing that I have had some few not altogether obscure or unknown personal friends in the assembly—seeing that I had some little association with and knowledge of a certain obscure peer lately known in England by the name of Lord Brougham—seeing that I regard with some admiration and affection another obscure peer wholly unknown in literary circles, called Lord Lytton—seeing also that I have had for some years some slight admiration of the extraordinary judicial properties and amazingly acute mind of a certain Lord Chief Justice popularly known by the name of Cockburn—and also seeing that there is no man in England whom I respect more in his public capacity, whom I love more in his private capacity, or from whom I have received more remarkable proofs of his honour and love of literature than another obscure nobleman called Lord Russell—taking these circumstances into consideration, I was rather amazed by my noble friend's accusation. When I asked him, on his sitting down, what amazing fiend possessed him to make this charge, he replied that he had never forgotten the days of Lord Verisopht. Then, Ladies and Gentlemen, I understood it all. Because it is a remarkable fact that in the days when that depreciative and profoundly unnatural character was invented there was no Lord Houghton in the House of Lords, and there was in the House of Commons a rather indifferent member called Richard Monckton Milnes. Ladies and Gentlemen, to conclude for the present, I close with the other charge of my noble friend; and here I am more serious, and I may be allowed perhaps to express my seriousness in half a dozen plain words. When I first took literature as my profession in England, I calmly resolved within myself that whether I succeeded or whether I failed literature should be my sole profession. It appeared to me at that time that it was not so well understood in England as it was in other countries that literature was a dignified profession, by which any man might stand or fall. I made a compact with myself that in my person literature should stand, and by itself, of itself, and for itself; and there is no consideration on earth which would induce me to break that bargain.

Mr. J. A. Picton next proposed the toast of "Modern Literature," which was responded to by Mr. Anthony Trollope and Mr. Hepworth Dixon. Mr. F. S. Hall proposed "Our distinguished Visitors," which was spoken to M. Alphonse Esquiro and Mr. Andrew Halliday. Lord Houghton proposed "The Newspaper Press," for which Mr. G. A. Sala returned thanks.

Mr. Charles Dickens then rose, and was again received with applause. He said:—Gentlemen—for I address myself solely to you—the nature of the toast I am about to propose cannot, I think, be better or more briefly expressed than in a short quotation from Shakespeare, slightly altered:—Scene, a banquet-hall; thunder of admiration! Lightning of eyes!—Enter Macbeth: "Who are these so sparkling and so bright in their attire that they look not like inhabitants of earth, and yet are of it?" Reply: Sir, these are the Lancashire witches. Pondering this in my mind just now, and looking around this magnificent hall, I naturally pondered, also, the legend of its patron saint. It is recorded of St. George that he was even more devoted to love and beauty than the other six champions of Christendom; and I, his lowly imitator and disciple, have modelled myself upon him.

How happy could I be with either, Were I other dear charmer away, is a sentiment that was first put into writing some few ages after St. George's time; but I have a profound conviction that he would have originated it if he could have projected himself into this occasion. However, he was much better employed in killing the dragon who would have devoured the lady, and he was better employed still in marrying the lady and enslaving himself by freeing her. The legend goes on to relate that that cursed brood of dragons after that time retired into inaccessible solitudes and were seen no more, except on very special occasions. Now, it occurs to me that if any of those dragons should yet be lingering in retirement, and if they should have, in virtue of any bewitched sixth sense, the slightest notion of the havoc that will be wrought amongst St. George's descendants by this assemblage of glowing beauty here to-night, then the dragon race is even with St. George at last, and is most terribly avenged. Gentlemen, I will give you "The Ladies."

Mr. George Segar, barrister, responded on behalf of the ladies. Some other toasts followed.

AN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME EXHIBITION is to be opened in Naples on April 1 next year.

THE LOUNGER.

THE man Higgs, who robbed the gas company, was certainly a genius in his way. To account for the splendour in which he lived he told his friends that some one had left him £90,000. Indeed, he hardly knew what it might be. It was in Chancery, and he could not tell exactly what the amount was. He gave princely dinners, to which the directors of his company were invited—and went, and dined at their own expense! There is a touch of humour in this. Fancy a man picking your pocket, providing a dinner with the plunder, and inviting you to dine! Just before he bolted he had promised to subscribe £2000 to the fund necessary to build a new church, and only hesitated because the parson of an old church complained that a new church would rob him of his congregation and destroy the income which he got from pew-rents. It is said that this appeal was successful. Was there, then, still divine pity in this man? It was said long ago that man is part human, part angel, and part fiend. But, not to go so far as this, it is certain that the genius homo is a profound mystery. It is right to say that Sir Thomas Gabriel, who is a director of the company, did not go to this gentleman's dinner-parties. By-the-way, unriddle me this riddle. How can a clerk rob a company of £50,000 and remain undetected so long? If books were properly kept and checked—books against vouchers, vouchers against books—not a pound in a year could be stolen, especially in the case of a company which sells but one article.

The Admiralty, I have heard, have been so frightfully "done" in the matter of coal contracts, that they have determined to have nothing to do in future with competing contractors, but to employ a buyer, who will buy of the best houses, at the market prices. Of course, he will enter into contracts with these houses, but there will be no competition. If the Admiralty can get a really honest man, who knows his business, I have no doubt that this new system will be better than the old one; and there are still honest men in the world, or we should be indeed in a bad state. Having got an honest man, they ought to pay him well, and insist, under severe penalties, that he shall not receive presents—not even a goose at Michaelmas or a turkey at Christmas. Strange stories are afloat about these presents. I lately heard of a goose with very savoury stuffing—to wit, two fifty-pound notes—in it. These, however, as the story goes, never got to the master, but were intercepted by the cook, who, when questioned about them, acknowledged that she had taken, and meant to keep them. "I will prosecute you," said the master. "Do," replied the cook; but he never did, of course, nor did he turn away the cookery. I know not whether this good story is true; but I know enough of contractors and officials to make me believe that it is quite likely to be true. Foolish people say that Gambier's punishment is too severe, because he only did what everybody does. Surely if iniquity has by custom come to be thought not iniquitous, if honesty and cheating have come to be indistinguishable, if men's mental vision have become so distorted that they don't know black from white, it is time that they should undergo the operation, however severe, which Mr. Gambier is now undergoing. I will be bound that the poor wretch—and from the bottom of my soul I pity him—begins to see more clearly than he did a year ago.

The writer of the "Inner Life" lately wrote in laudatory strains of Mr. Jessell, Q.C. On Wednesday I was in the House of Commons and heard Mr. Jessell's speech upon the Woman's Property Bill; and I have to say that the speech more than justified the aforesaid writer's praises. It was the speech of a master, before which all the other speeches for and against the bill had to pale their ineffectual fires. When Sir Robert Collier shall go his way to the Bench, as he wishes to do and speedily will do, Coleridge will take the Attorney-General's place, and Jessell, I take it, must be Solicitor-General. Sir Roundell Palmer is out of the running at present, and one sees not how he can get in again until the Irish Church Bill shall have been disposed of. That out of the way, I suppose Hatherley will retire and make way for Sir Roundell Palmer on the woolsack. Meanwhile he may keep his conscience, and his practice, too, which, if report speak truly, is so lucrative that, for the life of me, I cannot make a martyr of him. He only postpones the honours, he does not sacrifice them; *ad interim* he earns, men say, £10,000 a year. If this be martyrdom, I should like, as cabby said, to have half his complaint.

Dizzy, in the matter of the Irish Church, gives up the hallowed principle of Church and State—that safeguard for religious liberty, &c., including even the throne—and means only to fight for the pelf. This is as if a swimmer struggling in the waves should lighten himself by throwing away his child, but keep his money-bags. But was it not always so in these Church struggles when the pinch came?

"Look on that picture, and on this," said a friend to me, on Thursday morning, whom, on entering the breakfast-room, I found contemplating the *Times* of that day, alongside of a copy of the same journal for 1794—that is, seventy-five years ago—which he had spread out on the floor before him. And certainly the contrast was striking, and strongly indicative of the progress of journalism during that period. The *Times* of 1794 contained four meagre pages, and measured about three-quarters of a yard one way by less than eighteen inches the other; while the number for Thursday consisted of sixteen pages, and was fully four yards in length—that is, laying the pages side by side—and upwards of two feet in depth, measuring from the top of the sheet to the bottom. But even these dimensions do not represent the entire difference between the two sheets, for it may be safely said that one page of the *Times* of to-day contains as much printed matter as the entire sheet of 1794; and the cost is less than one half! Think of that, modern Britons! and remembering that there are hosts of other daily papers, of about half the size of the *Times*, containing "all the news of the day," with much original writing to boot, which you can command for the "low charge of one penny," say if ye be not highly favoured in the matter of journals as compared with your progenitors of only three quarters of a century since! An analysis of the contents of the big and the little *Times* would show contrasts quite as marked as their dimensions; but for that I have not time just now.

A correspondent sends me the following:—"The nearest diverging-point northwards from the City and Westminster, where the buildings of London at present terminate, is at Highbury-crescent. From that spot there is a tract of ground not yet built upon, stretching away into the open country. Thence the northerly winds blow over London with their refreshing influence. Will the Legislature now permit this open space to be covered with houses from Highbury to Wood-green?" It was in the neighbourhood indicated, I believe, that the projected park for Finsbury and Islington—in short, north and north-east London—was to have been formed, and for which, if I recollect aright (but it is so long ago) the ground was purchased. Has the project fallen through altogether? or is this one of the public improvements to execute which the Metropolitan Board of Works cannot find funds, and must therefore delay? Perhaps some one can answer both my correspondent's question and my own?

An enterprising bookseller in Paris, I am told, has bought up all the first edition (15,000) of Victor Hugo's new story, "L'Homme qui Rit." Messrs. Bradbury and Evans have purchased the copyright for England, and the story is to be commenced next month in the already popular new series of the *Gentleman's Magazine*. The general title will be "By Order of the King." The first book is called "The Sea and the Night." The story opens in England about the year 1690.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

After missing *Kettledrum* for a month or two, I find it again on my desk. It contains a great deal of exceedingly sensible and suggestive matter, and some to which still higher praise might be given. Miss Smedley commences a new story, entitled "Lucy Ferrars," which is of itself an attraction. The paper on "Penny Readings" is most admirable. In the paper on "Woman's Cry

Literature.

The Authentic Historical Memoirs of Louis Charles, Prince Royal, Dauphin of France, Second Son of Louis XVI, and Marie Antoinette; &c. London: William Ridgway.

and Man's Answer," which is also capital, there is a repetition of the kind of error—and it is a decided error—which I noticed in a previous number: I mean inferring, direct, from a poet's writing to his character or opinions. The Laureate is not to be made responsible for the words he puts into the mouth of the frenzied lover in "Locksley Hall;" but I admit that that poem is faulty: because no man who had the insight which would enable him to say one or two of the things about love which the poem contains, could in the course of nature forget that "love is love for evermore," is sauce for the gander as well as the goose. The second paper on "Doing Good," by Miss Smedley, is written with extreme beauty, and is full of wisdom; but it mistakes the paper to which it is a reply, a paper which happens to be quite fresh in my own mind. It condemned, as heartily as Miss Smedley does, all making game on the part of "society" of people who make a business of "doing good," but it maintained the right of a woman like Miss Nightingale to criticise them freely. It strikes me that the root of the criticism to which Miss Smedley here replies lies very deep down in the writer's natural preference for the spontaneous or inspired side of action and his distrust of all mechanical, or quasi-mechanical, methods which can be twisted into caricature. As for the notion that it is everybody's duty to help in some way in what is technically called "doing good," I, for one, oppose it. There are a great many people who are useful in their way, but who would be the worse for trying to "do good" in the usual sense of the words; and I feel sure Miss Nightingale would rather take Gideon's tested handful than be bothered by people such as Miss Smedley painted in the village schoolroom or somewhere in the former article. The proposition that we are all to be judged by the same standard, contains both a truth and an equivocation. We are all bound to do our best out of the raw material of our gifts and our positions; but this is unconsciously strained to mean much more. Generally, I may add that this accomplished writer has more faith in pulpitatives, and less in direct methods, than I have. But it is impossible here to exhaust the subject.

If the *Victoria*, and the class of ladies who take *Victoria* views, would confine themselves to subjects which they understand, or at least (if only as a matter of policy) to subjects they are supposed to understand, they would save their cause some obloquy. The paper on "The Education of Women" is, on the whole, excellent, and the lady who wrote it deserves respect, and even homage, whoever she is; but to select a particular passage dealing with a difficult subject on which the writer well knows free speech is not permitted or desirable, so that it is impossible to treat it fairly, and to circulate this passage in a slip under the heading of "A Home Thrust," was very unadvisable, and has a decidedly insolent look. A happily-married woman who had the full confidence of an intelligent husband would never have played such a trick. It is bad policy, if it is nothing worse; but it is something worse, for it exhibits gross ignorance of facts.

In *Belgravia* there is not much that lends itself to comment, but Mr. Sala is, as he always is, one of the most readable of writers. Mr. George Stott, on "Taking Things Easy" (that is the "subject," I forget if it is the precise title), is also good. But the "gem" in the crown of *Belgravia* nowadays is Mr. Justin McCarthy's new story, "My Enemy's Daughter." Those who have rather shunned *Belgravia* on account of its want of what might be called metaphysical interest and generally the absence of open air in it, should turn to this. Mr. McCarthy is a writer of true moral and spiritual sensibility—not nearly so full of poetry as Mr. George MacDonald, yet with enough of it, and much more breadth of touch and frank unerringness of genius of temper.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

A "Breach of Promise," Mr. T. W. Robertson's two-act comic drama at the GLOBE, is an adaptation of "Les Amours de Cléopâtre," a broad Palais Royal five-act farce. It is a pleasant feature in the production of this piece that Mr. Robertson has set the good example of admitting the fact that it is not an original piece. But why does Mr. Robertson adapt pieces at all? Above all, if he must adapt, why does he select such arrant trash as the piece in question for the purpose? Mr. Robertson has achieved an excellent position in his profession: there is no existing writer for the stage whose name is worth half the money to a manager that his name is worth. Mr. Tom Taylor is virtually out of the profession. Mr. Boucicault cannot write a comedy. Dr. Westland Marston, with plenty of ability, does not succeed in hitting the taste of stalls, boxes, pit, and gallery all at once. Lord Lytton has not kept pace with the times. In short, no writer for the stage is half so popular as Mr. Robertson, and no writer for the stage is more worthy of his popularity. It will be seen that I am not writing in a spirit of ill-nature towards Mr. Robertson. I maintain that Mr. Robertson has done more good to the cause of British drama in its integrity than any writer since Sheridan. I do not mean to say that no writer has excelled Mr. Robertson in dramatic construction, or in the invention of telling characters, or in contriving effective dialogue; but in a happy combination of these three talents, Mr. Robertson is certainly without an equal in the present day. Under these circumstances, and holding these opinions, I cannot but think it is a subject of regret that an author, who has so distinguished himself as a writer of original pieces, should condescend to a bald translation of a trashy French farce. Let him leave this sort of thing to the army of burlesque writers: he should fly at higher game. "A Breach of Promise," as he calls his version of "Les Amours de Cléopâtre," is a broad piece of extravagance, belonging to a school of burlesque to which English audiences are strangers. A farce, pure and simple, abounding in extravagant situations, and studded with preposterous verbal jokes, is a matter that we London players can appreciate; but a farce with a serious interest, worked out by a series of wholly irrational and unaccountable incidents, told with all the elaboration that characterises a two-act drama, is quite beyond our ken. The fun of the thing is purely French. Anyone who is familiar with the ordinary tone of Palais Royal farces will at once recognise points that must have told with immense effect on the audience for which they were originally written, although they go for nothing with the audience for which Mr. Robertson has designed them. The piece has done good service in proving Miss Maggie Brennan's claim to a higher rank in her profession than she has hitherto occupied. From beginning to end, every line that she had to give told with wonderful directness and precision, and her "tag"—a burlesque on an Old Bailey barrister's peroration—would, of itself, have saved a much less amusing piece. On the whole, I suppose the piece must be pronounced a success; I hope, however, that such success as it achieved (for its success was qualified) will not again tempt Mr. Robertson across the Channel in search of subjects for his pen.

The members of the 1st Surrey Rifles Dramatic Club gave a performance at their headquarters on Friday, the 9th inst. At eight o'clock—thirty minutes after the specified time—the curtain rose for Mr. Horace Wigan's comedy, "The Charming Woman." The only reason the managers could have had for selecting such an uninteresting play was to give Ensign Fourdrinier an opportunity of exercising his histrionic talents in a new "line," as Mr. Symptom has been amusing throughout, his love-making being intensely comic. Miss Austin, as Mrs. Bloomly, was pleasing; and Miss Harvey was animated as the jealous wife. Lieutenant Bignore, as Mr. Alfred Ardent, was not sufficiently emotional. The other parts call for no comment. The entertainment—the last of the season—concluded with "The Area Belle."

On Wednesday week Mr. S. Woollett gave a second very successful recitation at the Hanover-square Concert-Room. He repeated entire Longfellow's poem of "Hiawatha" with great pathos, and gave a very fine recitation of Macaulay's splendid lyric on "Virginia." He also gave the gravediggers' scene in "Hamlet," Goldsmith's humorous "Haunch of Venison," and Tennyson's "Locksley Hall." Mr. Woollett's memory was never at fault, and it is to be hoped he will find that encouragement from the public he so well deserves.

In a statistical volume, two gentlemen, Messrs. William and Augustus Meves, give the autobiography of their father, the late Mr. Augustus Meves, and much addenda of their own—the whole being intended to prove that the father was none other than the dead or missing son of Louis XVI. All that such a proof of birth involved will be at once seen. In case of a desire on the part of the fickle French nation for a change of Government, the "County" Paris would probably be "nowhere," in comparison with the elder Capet. Such claims are by no means uncommon. Seldom does a year pass without some "last of the Stuarts" dying in Canada or New South Jericho; and the undoubted heirs to real Dukedom—pure Percies, no Smithsons—are eternally turning up on wharves or canal barges, or giving a tone to rural society in the character of bricklayers' labourers. However, for the benefit of the French nation, to whom the present work is dedicated, it must be said that the Messrs. Meves must surely be educated and accomplished gentlemen, and that their father was able to make his way handsomely in the world, as a distinguished musician as well as a clever man of business. It would be unfair to look at the book from a professional literary man's point of view. It is, perhaps, as clumsy a piece of workmanship as the season has seen; but yet it has the one point best of all in it, it carries something like the conviction of truth. It may be remembered that the late Mr. Augustus Meves died, in a cab, just ten years ago. After the coroner's inquest, amongst other authorities, Mr. Wakley gave a written statement to the effect that the deceased had peculiar marks and scars on his person—marks and scars which corresponded precisely with those known to have been on the person of little Louis Charles, Prince Royal of France, who was Dauphin on the death of his elder brother. Some of these marks were seen at the time of the Prince's birth; some came by accident; some by the brutality of the gaoler Simon, in the Temple; and some (we think) by the savage attentions of the brutal Hebert. Of course, assuming the book not to be merely a humorous tissue of inventions, we should say that there is not the least doubt as to the perfectness and force of the evidence on this point. Then, again, there are the two stories to be considered: did the Dauphin really die in the Temple, or did he escape? There is strong evidence to show that a youngster, who certainly did die in the Temple at the time, was represented to be the Dauphin, but that he was remarkably unlike as to the colour of the eyes and hair. Moreover, after a certain period of captivity, he would not speak a word, and did not seem to hear one. The book asserts that Mrs. Meves, the reputed grandmother of the present claimants to Royal honours, was a personal friend of Marie Antoinette, that she was in Paris about the time of the alleged death or escape of the young Prince, and that, by one way or another, she had managed to possess herself of a deaf-and-dumb boy! If that theory be correct, we should like to know what became of her own son, Augustus, whom the subject of the present volume may be said to have unconsciously personated all his life. The book is most confusing on the point. On the other hand, the reputed Augustus Meves was so wonderfully like Louis XVI., that many of the great people of France did not scruple to recognise him; and it must be remembered that it was the interest of all the Royal family, including his sister, the Duchess d'Angoulême, to disown him, since the settlement of 1814 affected all their positions. And yet, in 1814, so general was the belief that the Dauphin was only missing, that the Government was made provisional for two years. The weakest parts of the book are where the "Augustus Meves" remembers incidents of childhood—just when it is convenient! If he did escape from the Temple, he must have been about nine years old. He could have made no mistake about the Temple as a prison; and surely the difference between that and his former life at the Tuileries must have been ineffaceably stamped on his memory. Also the solution of the difficulty about the beginning of his life in England, at the school at Horsham, which school-house had been a prison, is quite without the range of probability. A boy of his age, and of average common-sense, could scarcely have been deceived into supposing that he had mistaken one prison for the other. But the whole case, as it stands, is a strong one, and cannot but have interest for great numbers of readers. These observations do not contain a final judgment of our own, but simply convey to others some of the material upon which they will be doubtless glad to speculate.

Idylls and Epigrams. Chiefly from the Greek Anthology. By RICHARD GARNETT. London: Macmillan and Co.

The ordinary book-taster could scarcely be expected to run through the Greek Anthology in order to see if such a book as Mr. Garnett's be good in selection, and correct as well as clever in execution. Therefore a broad verdict must be given, and that verdict is a handsome one. Here are short passages, idyllic and epigrammatic, from Moschus, Meleager, Plato, Bion, Antiphanes, Sophocles, Martial, Callimachus, and—last, not least—"Anonymus." Mr. Garnett himself supplies many pieces, and the modern ideas have much of the ring of the old; whilst old and new are executed with very neat versification, though occasionally marred by too much confusing involution. To quote the good things would be too much—it would be almost the book itself, provoking Mr. Garnett's ire and Messrs. Macmillan's action at law. But the first page will give a fair idea of Mr. Garnett's mingled force and fun:—

Hither, dear Muse, I pray; and with thee bear
A madrigal for Melite the fair;
Evil with good repaying; for 'tis she
Who tempts me to oblivion of thee.
The Muse invoked, whom next shall I address
To grant my strain both merit and success?
May Phoebus melody, may Pallas sense,
And Bacchus geniality dispense;
By Graces grace, passion by Venus be
Bestowed; the love of nature, Pan, by thee;
And last, without which all were not enough,
Vouchsafe, most potent Boleus, a puff.

The last line, which may be taken as an invocation to the critics, is almost irresistible, and surely there is scarcely one of the brotherhood—usually more irritable than poets—who would not answer to the call. In all fairness, Mr. Garnett may claim praise rather than puff, and he deserves a great deal more credit than the mass of mankind is likely to give him for putting together so many flashes of the dead language instinct with the life of the modern. Still wishing to avoid quotation, we cannot avoid four lines, by way of illustration of an idea which has even been commonplace—namely, that human nature always will be human nature, and which idea Artemus Ward pleasantly ridiculed by saying, "there's a great deal of humanity in human nature." Lucilius and Martial, who, in round numbers, wrote about two thousand years ago, speak respectively of the faults of the fair sex in these terms. Lucilius says:—

They say that thou dost tinge (O monstrous lie!)
The hair that thou so raven-black didst buy.

And then Martial:—

She buys her hair, and from that fact alone
'Tis evident that it must be her own.

Clearly the common-place people and Artemus Ward are quite right. Human nature will be human nature, and there is much humanity in it. But how many times in the season, in the year, do we find girls quizzed about the fashion of their hair, its form, its colour, its *je ne sais quoi*, however, its charm natural or acquired—quizzed—inquizzed in the so-called comic journals, which are never so smart as when ridiculing correspondents for sending them old jokes? Surely the old jokes of Lucilius and Martial on girls' hair—and

those jokes are not very brilliant after all, however original they may have been 2000 years ago—surely those jokes might now be suffered to rest. However, that matter is entirely in the hands of the ladies, who should cease to provoke the joke. Just as a French gentleman, the other day, arguing against the punishment of death, finished by saying that he thought abstention from killing should begin with "Messieurs les Assassins." This is wandering from Mr. Garnett's book, but the wandering character of the book itself will be sufficient excuse. For instance, in giving specimens of it, we have quoted an Englishman of to-day, and two Romans (one born in Spain) of something like twenty centuries since, and nothing from the Greek Anthology.

The Days of Knox: a Tale of the Sixteenth Century. By the Author of "The Dark Year of Dundee." London: Nelson and Son.

The author of this work, which cannot be strictly termed a novel, has aimed less at telling a story involving personal characters and relating events purely affecting individuals than at presenting two pictures of history which were contemporary with each other—one, having the larger breadth of canvas, in Scotland and the other in France. These are of course depicted from the author's own point of view, that point lying on the extreme limits of Calvinism; for the reader will have divined from the title that the production before us is essentially—although not a religious book, yet—an historico-controversial one. It brings before us the state of and the public events in Scotland immediately succeeding the Reformation, and also the condition of France as respects the conflicts arising from religion during the struggle sustained by the Huguenots, which ended in the Saint Bartholomew Massacre. The story is only a peg on which to hang the narrative of these events, and the characters chiefly serve to comment upon them in a bitter anti-Catholic and enthusiastic Calvinist spirit. It may be briefly told, although the real purpose of the author has required it to be prolix and complicated. Arthur Erskine, a young gentleman of a good Scotch family which has adhered to the Catholic faith, at that period persecuted in Scotland, goes to France, and takes service in the household of the Duke de Guise. This was *tempore* 1565. Young Erskine was a devoted member of his Church, and was brave, chivalrous, just, and high-minded. While in Paris he defended with his sword and person a Huguenot family from the attack of a ferocious mob, made because the husband and father had refused some outward act of conformity to the Catholic rite. For this he was dismissed from his employment and thrown into destitution, making the acquaintance while in that condition of a Sieur de Villemorgue, a high-minded and intelligent gentleman, and a Huguenot. He converts Erskine to Calvinism. The latter returns to Scotland, and his new convictions are confirmed by the preaching of John Knox. His sister Helen also becomes a Presbyterian. After the Saint Bartholomew Massacre, De Villemorgue makes his way to Edinburgh; sees Helen and is ultimately married to her; and, by the assistance of Arthur and his friends, they find their way safely to Rochelle. The Civil War crowns the party of the Reformation with success, and that of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, succumbs. The minor characters in the tale are remarkable only for an almost incessant assertion, in very pure Scotch, of Calvinistic doctrines and a condemnation of those of Rome.

The story in itself, and apart from the historic sketches and the controversial filling-in, would, we think, attract few readers. Whether the book, as it is, will have any considerable circulation we are willing to doubt. Wise men and sincere Protestants hold the opinion that the bitter persecutions and cruelties which sprang from religious passions and princely ambition at the epoch referred to, and which were not altogether, nor even mostly, confined to one side, ought now to be left to the comparative oblivion of grave history, where educated and thoughtful minds could find and consider them with impartiality, after examining the evidence on both sides. Any attempt to revive religious bitterness is opposed to the spirit of the age and of Christianity itself. In our opinion, the work before us, written by an author who is undoubtedly in earnest, but no less undoubtedly thoroughly one-sided, is such an attempt. The volume is intended for popular reading, and could not fail, if widely circulated, to inflame controversial passions and hatred amongst those who must necessarily, and would certainly, accept its statements without further inquiry. For that reason we cannot commend this book, notwithstanding the purely literary excellencies of its style.

The Swiss Family Robinson, in Words of One Syllable. By MARY GODOLPHIN, Author of "Robinson Crusoe, in Words of One Syllable," "Evenings at Home, in Words of One Syllable," &c. London: Routledge and Sons.

Evenings at Home, in Words of One Syllable. By MARY GODOLPHIN, Author of "Robinson Crusoe, in Words of One Syllable," &c. London: Routledge and Sons.

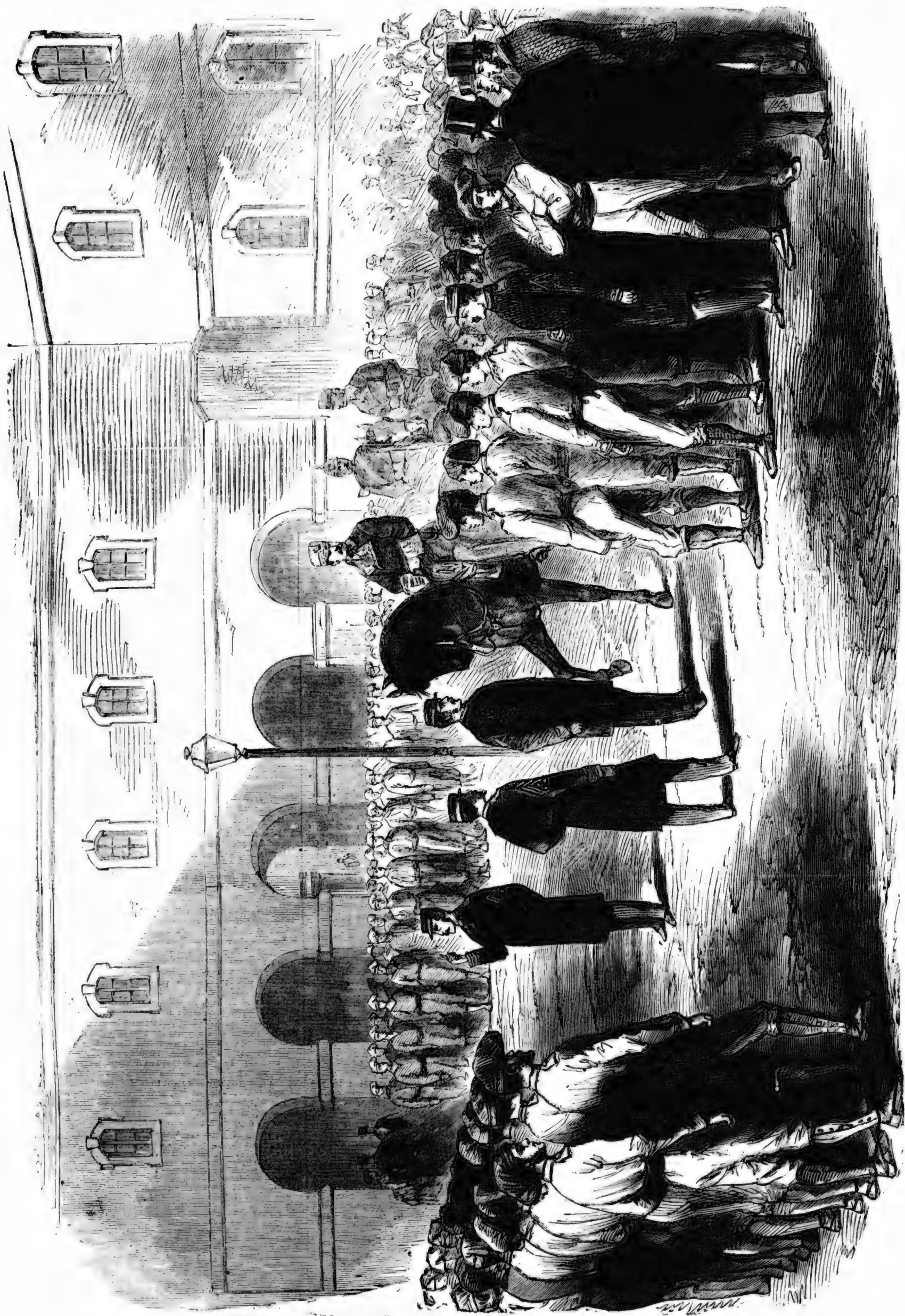
The Swiss Family Robinson, in Words of One Syllable. Arranged and adapted from the original story by J. F. W., Author of "The Boy's First Reader," &c. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

Evenings at Home, in Words of One Syllable. By UNCLE JOHN, Author of "The Children's Album." London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

Here is a puzzle for the uninitiated in bibliography. We have before us two sets of books, the titles of which are above set forth in full, which so exactly resemble each other that it is only on a close inspection that one can detect a difference. They bear precisely the same titles; they are of precisely the same-sized page and type; they are bound almost precisely alike, the only distinction being that one is in crimson and the other in maroon coloured cloth; they are printed and illustrated in precisely the same style; and they are, in contents, nearly word for word alike. In fact, so similar are they that we at first fancied the publishers had made a mistake, and sent us two copies of each book instead of one, and this the more especially as both sets reached us within a day or two of each other. On looking into the books, however, we found there were differences, which made the singular coincidences connected with them all the more remarkable. They are ascribed to different authors, and are issued by different publishers. These seem about all the distinctions that we can discover, unless we add that Mrs. Godolphin inserts prefaces to her books, whereas "J. F. W." and "Uncle John" do not. While wondering within ourselves what all this similarity could mean, we met with an explanation of the matter, a summary of which we copy from contemporary:—

The *Athenaeum*, which, to its credit be it spoken, always opens its columns to the grievances of authors, has just laid before us a very pretty quarrel as it stands. A Mrs. Godolphin writes first to complain that she offered a series of the "juvenile classics" in one syllable to Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, of which they published some volumes; that with reference to two others, after leaving the Ms. in their hands, she differed as to terms, and went elsewhere; that they thereupon published, under her title, their ("defective") versions of the very two books she had named. To this Messrs. C., P., and G. make answer—1st, that they projected the series; 2nd, that they declined because of Mrs. G.'s advance in terms, having the means of getting the works done at less cost. But they do not rebut her charge of the defectiveness of their work; while they deny her any property, legal or moral, in her idea. Further, while taunting her because they forestalled her (she having to look about for other publishers and make fresh arrangements), they admit they took "immediate steps" to cut her out. Thereupon Mrs. Godolphin replies, categorically stating—First, that the series was of her invention, and admitted by the firm to be "something quite new"; second, that it was the firm's reduction of terms (because they could "do the work at less cost" on the premises) and not her advance which led to the rupture; and, further, she states that, as regards the reduction of popular tales to words of one syllable, she claims that her books were the first published. To this Messrs. Cassell and Company reply by a general contradiction of Mrs. Godolphin's statements.

Here, we think, is a "very pretty quarrel as it stands;" and in the circumstances we do not care to pronounce any opinion, either on its merits or those of the rival publications.



DRILLING OF CATALAN VOLUNTEERS FOR CUBA AT BARCELONA.



A VENETIAN FETE.—(AFTER A PICTURE BY WATTEAU.)

A VENETIAN FETE.

We have recently published two or three illustrations of the modern Venetian festivals during the Carnival time, and had occasion to remark that the days of masking and processions on special occasions had gone by, the circumstances that produced them having altered with the progress of the times. We this week publish an Engraving, however, which is taken from a celebrated picture, and exhibits fancifully enough—as all Watteau's pictures did—the notion of a holiday festival in the high-heeled shoe and satin-breeches period. There is always a suggestion of extreme artificiality in the works of the great painter; and yet their exquisite finish, the real appreciation of the beauty which could be obtained by uniting nature and art on canvas, and a certain grave determination to keep up the assumption of reality, though there is no appeal to the reality in the mind of those who look at the scene depicted, all unite to make the works of this

artist attractive. In the gallery at Dulwich his beauties may be studied with advantage; and there is something so rich and delicate in their colour, so admirable in the harmony and grouping of the figures, and so tenderly natural amidst the extreme artificialness of the scenes depicted, that they have attracted a score of imitators, who, producing pictures after Watteau, or à la Watteau, serve to illustrate china and porcelain if they fail to obtain a place in galleries of paintings. It must be remembered that it was something in the days when Watteau painted to represent scenes of gallantry without coarseness or sensuality—to make the picture what the reality should be, an assemblage of elegant ladies and chivalrous gentlemen bound by their nobility and delicacy of perception to a kind of stately politeness. Figures of shepherds in crimson satin tights and shepherdesses in sacks and rosettes may have been absurd, but at least they were harmless; and there are many worse things, if people must feign, than

feigning a kind of rustic simplicity and playing at nature, that they may for a time be rid of the exhausting trammels of art. The picture from which our Engraving is taken is in a private collection, but our readers will probably be familiar with those works of Watteau which are in our own public galleries.

CATALAN VOLUNTEERS FOR CUBA.

We have already referred to the volunteers in Barcelona who are being sent to Cuba for the protection of Spanish interests; and our present Engraving represents a detachment of recruits from Catalan, which is about to be sent thither. The aspect of these men, as they were being drilled in the barrack-square at Barcelona, was not a little striking; and they will, doubtless, make efficient soldiers, since they are already formed into a very fair military organisation.

VISIT OF THE PRINCE IMPERIAL TO THE PARIS MINT.

THE education of the heir to the throne of France is progressing, and his frequent visits to the various public and Imperial works are among the items of news recorded in the Parisian journals. One of his last excursions has been to the Mint, an occasion of which we give a representation in one of our Engravings.

The Mint, or *Hôtel des Monnaies*, of Paris is indeed a very interesting exhibition to those who have the privilege of paying it a visit. It is a vast building, situated on the Quai Conti, between the Pont Neuf and the Pont des Arts, and contains eight courts, comprising the laboratory, workshops, and machinery of the department for the striking of coins and medals, for permission to see which it is necessary to apply by letter to the director; and in addition to these, a museum of coins, &c., which is open to the public two days a week. This museum contains a very beautiful collection of coins and medals in gold, silver, and copper, and among them the celebrated brass cast from the plaster mould of Napoleon, taken immediately after his death.

The French medals are very sharp and admirable in finish and execution, and are remarkable for their high relief, while the machinery in use is extremely ingenious, and so efficient that when in full work the mint can produce coin to the value of a million and a half sterling per day. In addition to the national currency, coins and medals for Russia, Switzerland, and the South American Republics, are struck in considerable quantities at the Paris Mint. The Prince Imperial, who was accompanied by his governor, General Frossard, his young attendant Carnenau, and several of the members of the household, was received at the grand staircase by Senator Dumas, president of the currency commission; Messrs. Marcotte de Quivieres and Pierre Clément, Commissioners General; and Baron Bussière, director of the works. The inspection commenced with the museum, where there is collected money and medals of all nations, and a national series, including all that have been issued since the time of Charles VIII. There are also examples of the various appliances for the art of coining, and a remarkable collection of postage-stamps.

After having visited the workshops and inspected the various operations, the Prince was conducted to the department devoted to the striking of medals, and here a very fine memento of his visit was produced in the shape of a medal bearing on one side the effigy of his Imperial Highness, and on the other a commemorative inscription. Our Engraving represents the presentation of this medal by M. Dumas.

BLACK AND WHITE" AT THE ADELPHI THEATRE.

THE new Adelphi drama, "Black and White," has already been described by our Theatrical Lounger; consequently it will only be necessary, in connection with the accompanying Engraving, to refresh the memories of our readers by a brief outline of the story. The scene is laid in the Island of Trinidad, and the time is supposed to be about 1830, the date, as will presently be seen, having material reference to the progress of events. The main incidents of the plot are after the following fashion:—Miss Milburn, a West Indian heiress, is sent for her education to Europe, and before her departure is regarded as the destined bride of Stephen Westcraft, a rich planter. While in Paris, however, she becomes enamoured of a French gentleman, the Count de Layrac, and her passion is returned with so much ardour that no sooner has Miss Milburn returned to her native home than she finds that she has been followed by her French gallant. The first act introduces us to a night scene at Miss Milburn's house. An evening entertainment is being given, and a conversation between the young lady and her friend, Mrs. Penfold, reveals the fact of her distaste for the man for whom she had been destined, and her preference for Maurice de Layrac, who soon after makes his appearance, to the astonishment of his fair favourite and to the confusion of Westcraft. A message from a mysterious personage is communicated to the Count, who answers the summons, and is presently conducted to a distant hut. It then turns out that this personage was none other than Ruth, a quadroon, who has been acting as servant to Miss Milburn, and who discloses to the astonished Maurice de Layrac that he is not the child, as he supposed, of the Count and Countess whose name he bore, but their adopted son; that she was his mother, and that his father was a planter, bearing the name of Brentwood, who had been dead many years, but who had sent his son to Europe to receive his education. De Layrac learns with astonishment akin to horror the story of his origin, the more so as the time at which the plot is laid was previous to the abolition of slavery, the result being to place him, as the offspring of a quadroon, in the position of a slave. The story of the female slave is overheard by Westcraft, who had scaled the hut, and was looking down from the roof; and by Miss Milburn, whose suspicions had been awakened, and who had followed the lover whom she was inclined to think unfaithful. Then follows a highly-dramatic scene, which depicts the meeting of Maurice de Layrac and Miss Milburn, in the course of which she reveals her knowledge of his position, and takes the opportunity to treat him first with favour and then with disdain; but she parts from him with unmistakable indications to him of her affection. De Layrac and Westcraft encounter each other in the dwelling of Miss Milburn, and high words lead to the indication of an insult, hard upon which follows a challenge. The rivals meet in the market-place, and then, for the first time, De Layrac discovers that Westcraft is acquainted with the secret of his birth, and is taunted publicly with the reproach of being a slave. But now has arrived the time when the adverse fates are about to prove propitious. Ruth in the interview referred to disclosed to Maurice the fact that the wife of Brentwood had intercepted various mystic figures which indicate the existence of a letter, the discovery of which is all-important to the hero. In his hour of need David Michaelmas, and Mr. Plato, a negro, prove valuable coadjutors. By means of their interposition a closed chamber in Brentwood House is ransacked, and the missing document is recovered. Soon after follows the final scene in the market-place, where Westcraft and De Layrac meet, and where the former reminds Maurice of his birth, and presently announces to him that he has purchased the estate to which he was attached, and that De Layrac is his slave. Miss Milburn, in the same scene, declares her unalterable attachment to her lover, and her determination to share his fortunes wheresoever they may be cast; and then follows the dénouement—David Michaelmas making his appearance with the letter that had so long been concealed, and which proclaims to De Layrac the restoration of his fortunes, whereupon Westcraft withdraws, amidst the execrations of the populace, who are equally vehement in approbation of the union of the West Indian heiress with Maurice.

"CONTEMPORARY WARS" (1853 TO 1866).—The London Peace Society, 19, New Broad-street, E.C., have just issued a very striking pamphlet with the above title, translated from a French brochure by M. Leroy Beaulieu, which has excited great interest on the Continent. It contains in small compass a large amount of authentic information illustrative of the lamentable sacrifice of life and property involved by the conflicts amongst the Christian nations of Europe and America in the short space of fourteen years—from 1853 to 1866 inclusive—and, in particular, by the wars in the Crimea, Germany, Italy (Magenta and Solferino), the United States, Schleswig-Holstein, and Mexico. The writer derives his facts and statistics from the official returns of the nations concerned, and from the valuable researches of Baron Moltke, Dr. Chenu, Baron d'Haxthausen, Dr. Ledfluer, of Berlin; M. Michel Chevalier, Major-General Barnes (Surgeon-General of the United States Army), M. Viro Ronssillon, and other well-known statisticians. It is proved that 1,743,491 men perished in the wars of these fourteen recent years, a number exceeding the combined population of Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Bristol, and Oxford. The cost of these wars, since 1853, was, on a very moderate calculation, £1,913,000,000, an amount which would pay for the construction of railways to an extent equal to the circuit of the globe (23,000 miles) at £50,000 per mile; or it would build and fill with objects of art and interest 1530 such magnificent institutions as the Crystal Palace at Sydenham at £1,350,000 each, or would erect and endow 389,600 schools at £5000 each.

THE LATE EARL OF RADNOR.

It seems strange that at this long interval of time we should be announcing the decease of a man who entered Parliament four years before the deaths of Pitt and Fox, and scarcely a year after the union with Ireland. Yet such is the case. The late Earl of Radnor, who died at his family seat, Coleshill House, last Saturday morning, not only took his seat in Parliament in 1801, but, as Lord Folkestone (the courtesy title by which he was then known), he took an active and prominent part in opposition to the Tory Administration, of which Mr. Addington, afterwards Lord Sidmouth, was the head. This was eight years before the name of Henry Brougham had been heard of either in Parliament or in the English law courts, and while the late Lord Lyndhurst was a student of Lincoln's Inn, hoping in the course of two or three years' time to be called to the Bar.

William Pleydell Bouverie, third Earl of Radnor, Viscount Folkestone, of Folkestone, Kent, Lord Pleydell Bouverie, of Coleshill, Berks, and Lord Longford, of Longford Castle, Wilt., and a Baronet, was the eldest of the four sons of Jacob, second Earl of Radnor, by the Hon. Anne Duncombe, daughter and co-heir of Anthony, last Lord Feversham, of an earlier creation than the present peer of that name. He was born in London on May 11, 1779, so that he had nearly completed his ninetieth year.

His early education was in France, and while a boy he was presented to Louis XVI. and his Queen, Marie Antoinette, at Versailles, and was taken through the cells of the Bastille the day after its capture by the Parisian mob in July, 1789. As we have already mentioned, it was not long after he came of age that he entered on Parliamentary life, the retirement of Sir William Scott (afterwards Lord Stowell) from the representation of Downton having made a vacancy in his favour, in March or April, 1801. At the following general election he was returned for Salisbury, of which borough his father was joint patron; and in January, 1802, he brought before the House a complaint against the *True Briton* for the insertion of scurrilous paragraphs involving a breach of privilege. Soon after he supported the claims of the Prince of Wales to the revenues of the duchy of Cornwall; and in the following May we find him advocating Sir Henry Mildmay's unsuccessful proposal of a vote of thanks to Pitt "for his eminent services to the country," a vote which, if carried, would have been in effect a vote of want of confidence in Mr. Addington. Still, Lord Folkestone was no servile adherent of Pitt, for in 1805 we find him in the majority of 217 to 216 who voted for censuring Pitt's right-hand man and ablest lieutenant, Lord Melville; and when, shortly afterwards, that nobleman was impeached, Lord Folkestone was one of the committee of twenty-one who were chosen to draw up the articles. In May, 1802, when Mr. Windham moved a vote of censure on Mr. Addington for the Peace of Amiens, then recently concluded with Napoleon, Lord Folkestone seconded the motion in a speech of considerable length and of great promise. It may be added that one of his earliest votes in Parliament was recorded against the proposal to pay Mr. Pitt's debts out of the revenues of the nation.

It would be impossible within the limits of an article like this to give a complete history of Lord Folkestone's career in the House of Commons, extended as it was over nearly seven-and-twenty years, without a break; it is sufficient to say that, both by vote and by voice, he uniformly opposed the measures of Mr. Perceval and Lord Liverpool; that he was an advanced Reformer and supporter of Roman Catholic emancipation at a time when neither "Reform" nor "Emancipation" was popular; and that on such questions as taxation, the education of the people, and the abolition of slavery, he spoke frequently and powerfully, and showed large and liberal views which were far in advance of his age. An eloquent and aristocratic Liberal, especially with a prospective seat in the House of Peers, was a rare sight within the walls of the unreformed House of Commons; but Lord Folkestone went straight at his mark, caring little whether he were in a minority or not; for he had faith in Liberal principles, and he knew and felt that in the long run they would and must prevail, though he might not live to witness that day.

It was naturally expected that when that day arrived, as it did arrive, in part, at least, on Lord Grey's accession to power in 1830, the Whigs would have bestowed office on one who had been so long conspicuous in Parliament for his advocacy of all measures of a liberal and progressive character, and especially of the rights of the unrepresented classes—an advocacy in his case all the more generous and unselfish because his family were able to nominate one member for the city of Salisbury, and he returned two members for the borough of Downton. With reference to the borough of Downton, there is an authentic anecdote which is strongly characteristic of the man. At the dissolution of Parliament in 1831 Lord Radnor sent for Mr. Charles Lefevre, now Lord Eversley, and proposed to him to enter the House of Commons as one of the members for Downton. Mr. Lefevre, while gratefully accepting the offer, said he should be glad to know if there were any political questions on which Lord Radnor might wish him to vote in accordance with his Lordship's views. Lord Radnor's reply was, "I wish you to judge for yourself, and to vote exactly as you may think right, except on one point, and, as to that, I must make it my particular request to you that you will on every occasion give your vote for the total disfranchisement of the borough of Downton." It is not publicly known whether office was ever offered by Lord Grey or Lord Melbourne to Lord Radnor, who had succeeded to the Earldom and the other family honours in January, 1828, just when the Catholic question was absorbing public attention; but the fact of his never having held political office when his party was in power has often been made the subject of observation and comment in those Liberal circles where his name has ever been regarded as a tower of strength. It was thought, and with good reason, that if he ever was ambitious of a seat in a Liberal Cabinet he should not have identified himself so largely as he did with the opinions of William Cobbett, to whom he contributed £50 on one occasion, in order to help him to a seat in Parliament. Indeed, for some years after his accession to the title, Lord Radnor may be said to have been the most perfect specimen of a real Radical in the Upper House; and Cobbett, no bad judge of a matter from the popular point of view, used to say that "he was the only man that wore a coronet who understood the first principles of politics, and that his speeches were the only speeches in the Upper House that were worth the trouble of listening to." His talents were certainly far above mediocrity, and though he never rose to any high flights of oratory, his speeches were always original and his language forcible and correct. He felt strongly on political questions, and therefore he always spoke strongly—so strongly and earnestly, indeed, at times as quite to forget himself in his subject, but he never wandered from his point or indulged in commonplace platitudes.

The family of Bouverie, which Lord Radnor represented in England, is one of those which the religious persecutions of France and the Low Countries have driven to take shelter in Great Britain, to enrich us and our commerce at the cost of their fatherland. The Bouveries descend from one Lawrence des Bouveries, a native of Flanders, who married the daughter of a silk manufacturer at Frankfurt, and settled in Canterbury just 300 years ago. This Lawrence's grandson, a Turkey merchant in London, was the father of William des Bouveries, or Bouverie, who was also a wealthy merchant, and was created a Baronet in 1714. His son Jacob, who was raised to the Peerage, in 1747, as Lord Longford and Viscount Folkestone, was the father of William, second Viscount, who was advanced to the Earldom of Radnor in 1765. He largely increased the family fortunes by his marriage with Harriet, only daughter and heir of Sir Mark Pleydell, of Coleshill House, Berkshire, whose name the Bouveries (of the house of Radnor) have since joined to their own; but still it must be owned that, like the Coventries, the Wards, and the Baringes, so the Bouveries also laid the foundations of their coronet in the city of London, where Bouverie-street and Pleydell-street still commemorate their name. It may not be out of place to mention here the fact that the celebrated Dr. Pusey, of Christ

Church, is not really a Pusey, but a Bouverie, being a grandson of the first Lord Folkestone and a nephew of the first Earl of Radnor; and it is not a little singular that the leader of High Churchmanship and Anglo-Catholicism at Oxford should be descended from a family of Protestant refugees.

The late Lord Radnor's seat near Salisbury, Longford Castle, is chiefly remarkable for its magnificent gallery of pictures, especially rich in specimens of Holbein. Of late years, however, his Lordship had given up Longford to his eldest son, and had resided almost entirely on his Berkshire property, devoting his attention to agriculture and horticulture, and barely attending in the House of Lords. Some twenty or thirty years ago, when he was in full health and strength, his handsome figure and honest and pleasant face were familiar enough to his brother peers, who were often amused at the strong denunciations hurled at him by such men as Lord Roden and the late Earl of Winchelsea, on account of his bitter invectives against what he considered the corruptions of the Established Church, and the exclusion of Dissenters from our Universities. It is remarkable that the late Lord and his father between them held a seat in the Upper House for more than ninety years, and that they sat in the Upper and Lower House altogether during upwards of ninety-seven years.

The Earl was twice married; firstly, in 1801, to Lady Catherine, only daughter of Henry, Earl of Lincoln, and granddaughter of Henry, second Duke of Newcastle, by whom he had an only daughter, the wife of General Buckley, formerly M.P. for Salisbury; and secondly, in 1815, to Anne Judith, third daughter of the late Sir Henry St. John Mildmay, by whom he had two daughters and also two sons. He is succeeded in the family title and estates by his elder son Jacob, Viscount Folkestone, who was born in 1815, and who married, in 1840, Lady Mary Augusta Frederica Grimston, daughter of the late Earl of Verulam, by whom he has a numerous family.

HEROIC CONDUCT OF A LADY.—A few days ago the steamer which plies between Italy and Tunis stopped to land five passengers at La Goulette. The boat into which they entered had not got more than a few yards from the vessel when it was overtaken by the waves. A French gentleman, named Cazeneuve, his wife, and two sailors, seeing what had occurred, immediately jumped into another boat at the quay, and succeeded in saving four of them. The fifth, a young girl, was on the point of sinking, when Madame Cazeneuve, who was a good swimmer, plunged into the water and supported her until the rest were able to extricate them both from their dangerous position.

OPERATION OF MR. LOWE'S SCHEME.—A Parliamentary paper, issued on Monday, shows when payments will have to be made in respect of assessed taxes and license duties, and when the house duty, land tax, and income tax will be collected, under the scheme of the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—The last payment of income tax, land tax, and house duty for 1868-9, and of assessed taxes on 1867-8, was due on April 5; the first payment of assessed taxes on 1868-9 will be due on Oct. 10; income tax on schedules A, B, D, for financial year 1869-70, and C and E, paid by deduction in each quarter of the fiscal year, will be due on Jan. 1, 1870; the land tax and house duty for 1869-70, and the license duties for articles to be kept in the year ending Dec. 31, 1870, will also be due on Jan. 1; the second moiety of the assessed taxes on 1868-9 will be due on April 5; and on Jan. 1, 1871, the same payments as January, 1870.

INVESTIGATION OF BARROWS ON THE SUSSEX DOWNS.—During the past week a party of diggers, under the direction of the Rev. W. de St. Croix and the Rev. Henry Smith, has been engaged in opening some of the sepulchral mounds which present so marked a feature on the chalk hills throughout the county. The site chosen for investigation was on land occupied by Mr. R. Evans, of Alfriston, close to the line marked as the Alfriston racecourse, and on the boundary between the estates of Viscount Gage and Mr. J. Pople. The relics of the early races who inhabited this part of England, which have been here discovered, present interest chiefly to the mind of the true archaeologist, and show that these mounds were not monuments to one chief alone of old time, but were used as burial-places for succeeding generations—first, perhaps, by a race who buried their dead unconsumed, and then by those who interred the burnt ashes of their people as well in urns of rude pottery as in cists dug in the puddled chalk. Some of the remains carry us back to the dimly-seen times of prehistoric antiquity.

MR. GRIFFITHS'S PATENT SNAFFLE.—The Bucephalus noseband is well known to horsemen as a most powerful means of controlling a pulling horse; but it has the objection that it requires very good hands, in the absence of which it is extremely cruel. The power of the gag snaffle, in which a pulley is made to increase the effect of the ordinary snaffle, is also admitted; but, as far as we know, the recent invention of Mr. Griffiths, saddler, of Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, is altogether a novelty. Unlike the gag snaffle, which acts on the angles of the lips and has a tendency to open the mouth, this new snaffle at once closes the jaw by means of the noseband, and brings the snaffle, with the aid of a pulley, to bear upon the jaw. The snaffle (the mouthpiece of which must be short) has an extra small eye within the ordinary ring, and through this a continuation of the noseband passes to the hand, after crossing behind the jaw. Thus, a pull at this rein acts most powerfully, at once closing the jaw, making the horse drop his head rather than raise it, and acting with the increased force of the pulley upon the jaw itself, which it compresses with great force. We have only tried this bit upon one horse; but that, a very violent puller, was controlled in the most remarkable manner by it; and we strongly recommend a trial of it to our readers.—*The Field*.

POOR RATES AND PAUPERISM.—An exceedingly useful Parliamentary paper upon the subject of poor rates and pauperism was published on Monday. It contains a series of tabulated returns of 655 unions and single parishes under boards of guardians. It was prepared by the Poor-Law Board pursuant to a motion made by Sir Michael Hicks Beach. The aggregate population of the 655 places referred to was, in 1861, 19,886,104, and the total number of paupers on July 1, 1868, was 372,328. This gives the proportion of paupers as 1 in 20, or 4.9 per cent on the actual population. Comparing the numbers returned on July 1, 1867, with those of the same date in 1868, we find there was an increase in the latter year of 45,843, or 5.9 per cent, the total number having been 971,387. One of the tables shows that on July 1, 1868, 197,651 males were relieved, 416,799 females, 348,673 children under 16, and 7946 vagrants, the latter being returned without distinction of sex. Another table classifies the recipients of relief into the able-bodied, of whom there were 416,437 on July 1, 1868; the not able-bodied, of whom there were 502,999; the insane, numbering 43,687; and vagrants, 7946. These are again classified in the next table according to sex, and showing the number of children under sixteen. A comparison of the number of adult able-bodied paupers receiving relief on July 1, 1867 and 1868, shows an increase in the last-named year of 10,543, or 7.3 per cent.

BRANDING SOLDIERS.—Anything but public satisfaction will result from the reply of the Judge-Advocate-General to a question put by Lord Garlies, on Monday night, with respect to a paragraph which recently appeared in a contemporary. The paragraph in question stated that, since flogging in the Army had been forbidden by the Legislature, the Horse Guards authorities had issued a memorandum "insisting that deserters and military offenders generally should be branded again and again, without regard to the first indelible mark." The same journal added, that the Judge-Advocate-General had, in a strongly-worded memorandum, severely censured such a course. In answer to the question of Lord Garlies whether the statement was true or not, Sir Coleman O'Loughlin said, "No" and "Yes." The Horse Guards, he replied, had issued no such memorandum; hence by no such document had any letter of his own been called forth; but he did not deny that he had addressed to the Horse Guards a memorandum on the subject of branding. At the same time, on the plea that the matter was still the subject of correspondence between himself and the Horse Guards, he declined to lay his original epistle on the table. This is a most unsatisfactory reply. The public, which hates anything like the idea of torture, wishes to know whether or not the Horse Guards has been guilty of any inhumanity; and, in justice to that department, the whole truth must be stated. What are the facts? What has the Horse Guards done? What did the Judge-Advocate-General say in his letter? Did he censure, warn, or instruct?—*Telegraph*.

A SNOBBISH COUNT.—A scandalous scene, which took place on April 1, at the German Opera at Pesth, has supplied the people of that city with ample matter for conversation. Count Esterhazy appeared that evening in one of the stage boxes, accompanied by a friend, with whom he kept up a loud conversation during the greater part of the first two acts of the opera, occasionally indulging in bursts of laughter during the most touching scenes. The rest of the audience became extremely exasperated at this unseemly conduct, upon which the Count displayed his indifference to the general feeling by whistling a popular air. The Captain of the city, who was sitting in the next box, now interfered, at first only by a gesture of remonstrance, but afterwards by word of mouth. As the Count paid no attention to him, the Captain sent a commissary of police to enforce his orders, but the latter was received with "Go to the deuce." The Captain then sent the commissary a second time, threatening that if Count Esterhazy continued to interrupt the performance he would order the police to turn him out of the theatre. The second message produced very little more effect than the first; but shortly afterwards the Count and his friend lighted their cigars at the chandelier before their box, and then withdrew. The next morning the Count was summoned before the Town Court. He appeared in person, and was condemned to pay a fine of 200 fl. He has challenged Captain Thars; but the latter has shown his good sense in refusing the intended honour. It appears that "roughs" are to be found in all countries and in all classes.

POLICE.

A TOO LENIENT SENTENCE.—Henry Leach, aged nineteen years, a seaman belonging to the ship *English Rose*, lying in the London Dock; William Leach, his brother, of Poplar, labourer, thirty-seven; John Innes Campbell, lockman of the London Dock, thirty-two; and Eliza Harris were taken before Mr. Benson, at the Thames Police Court, on Monday, charged with assaulting several persons and being concerned in a serious outrage and riot in Ratcliff-highway last Saturday night. Mr. John Williams, a messenger to a Government mercantile marine establishment, and his wife, were leaving a grocer's shop, between the hours of ten and eleven o'clock, when they encountered the two Leaches, who were drunk and swinging their arms about. Henry Leach struck Mrs. Williams, and she fell. He served another female in the same way. Mr. Williams went after the two men, and asked them for an explanation and what they meant by knocking down respectable women in the public street. Henry Leach struck Mr. Williams, and, to use his own words, "knocked him about right and left, marked his face, and threw him into the middle of the road." William Leach encouraged his brother, and used very brutal language. The two Leaches were taken into custody, and rescued by Campbell and others. One police-constable was severely kicked by William Leach, and others were injured. The loose women, headed by the woman Harris, encouraged the mob, among whom the police said there were between 300 and 400 thieves, to rescue the prisoners, who were several times rescued and recaptured. Mr. Benson said he was surprised that a well-dressed man like Campbell, who filled a responsible situation, and who had received a high character from one of the principals of the St. Katherine Dock, should have joined the low scum of Ratcliff-highway in interfering with the police and rescuing prisoners. The police performed their duty at considerable personal risk in that infamous locality, Ratcliff-highway and Shadwell. A dastardly assault had been committed by Henry Leach on two women, who, fortunately for him, had not come forward to prosecute, on the husband of one of them, and upon a police-constable. He sentenced him to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for six weeks; William Leach, for kicking a policeman, to pay a fine of 10s.; Campbell, 20s., and Harris, 5s. Henry Leach asked the magistrate to inflict a fine. If he was sent to prison he would be ruined. His ship was about to sail, and all his clothes, his chest, and hammock were on board. Mr. Benson—"I shall inflict no fine. You have assaulted several persons, and you will go to prison for six weeks." The prisoner—"Then I shall lose all my clothes and lose my voyage. Pray fine me." Mr. Benson refused to alter the sentence he had passed, and said he could not pass over such an outrage lightly, whatever inconvenience the prisoner might sustain.

A SHAM AFRICAN PRINCE.—At Marlborough-street, on Monday, James Manna, a young man of colour, passing himself off as the son and heir of the King of Dahomey, was taken before Mr. Mansfield for further examination on a charge of having been found in the house of Mr. Johnson, hosier, New Cavendish-street, for an unlawful purpose. The evidence taken at the first examination having been read over, Mr. Johnson said he had brought with him the agreement which the prisoner, on the representation that he was an African Prince of great wealth, had induced his wife to draw up. The agreement purported to be a contract to let the second floor for 12s. a week. The prisoner, among other matters, told Mr. Johnson that he was at one time engaged to be married to the daughter of the American Minister at Gallinas, and that his mother presented the lady with jewellery to the amount of £20,000; but that the alliance was never completed, as the lady was drowned. Inspector Hubbard said he had ascertained that prisoner had called on different tradesmen and ordered goods of all kinds. From Messrs. Burton he had ordered articles of the value of £70; at another place he gave an order for a piano worth £80; at another he ordered a large quantity of books; at a third he gave an order for a stock of wine, spirits, tea, &c. The prisoner said he came to Liverpool per the City of Edinburgh, but it was ascertained that no such vessel had arrived at the time named. Witness believed the prisoner was "wanted" at Liverpool, and that he had been tried at Maidstone for stealing clothing at Chatham. Mr. Harris, who resided for some years at the Gallinas, said Prince Manna was drowned while he was out there. He knew Prince Manna and all his family, and was in a position to state that the prisoner had no connection whatever with them. Mr. Cutler, of Lincoln's-Inn, and Professor of Law at King's College, said the prisoner came to him a short time ago, and said he was desirous of studying the English law. The prisoner, owing to his representations, had put him to some expense, for he had paid his bill at the Inns of Court Hotel, thinking there might be something in his story. In the course of conversation, the prisoner mentioned the names of several African merchants, and said he had 5000 bags of ginger coming here by the Fanny Ilberry, Captain Morris. He sent his clerk to the office of Mr. Ilberry, Riches-court, Lime-street, and ascertained that a vessel named the Fanny Ilberry was coming home with some ginger, but not for Prince Manna. The prisoner said he could show he was of Royal descent, and if the marks on his chest were examined it would prove the truth of his assertion. Everything he owed he was quite willing to pay for. Mr. Harris said it was the custom of the natives where the prisoner came from to cut themselves in the way referred to by the prisoner. Inspector Hubbard said at Doubourg's Hotel the prisoner represented himself to be General Sullivan, and at the Langham Hotel that he was General Sullivan's servant. As the inquiries of the police have led them to believe that the prisoner has been about the country victimising hotel-keepers and others, Mr. Mansfield said he would again remand him for a week.

A CAUTION TO WORKMEN.—Thomas Burford, foreman, and James Pain and Charles Cheese, journeyman paper-box makers, were summoned before Mr. Alderman Owen and Mr. Alderman Causton, on Monday, at Guildhall, to answer the charge, under the Master and Servants Act, of having absented themselves from their work without just cause or lawful excuse. Mr. Beard

prosecuted, and stated that Mr. Smith, the complainant, was a fancy-box maker, and had engaged the three defendants—Burford, as foreman, at 30s. per week; and Pain and Cheese, as journeymen, at 25s. per week. The former was entitled to a fortnight's notice, and the latter to a week's notice. For some time past their conduct had been very unsatisfactory, and on Monday last it culminated. Mr. Smith had an order in the house which he required finished with speed, but Burford never came near the place until after two o'clock; and although Pain and Cheese were there, they refused to take any orders from Mr. Smith, but said they must come through their foreman. When they were all together, Mr. Smith gave Burford a fortnight's notice to leave, and told the others to go to work; but Burford put on his coat, and said he should not stop any longer. As he was going out he called to the others, over whom he seemed to exercise an influence, and said "Come along, lads," upon which they followed him out of the workshop, and had not returned since. In consequence of their conduct, Mr. Smith had lost a customer, and could, under the 30th and 31st Vict., cap. 141, claim compensation from the men for the injury he had sustained. However, he should not ask for that, but proceed on the 4th and 9th sections of the Act, under which the magistrate had the power of fining the defendants any sum not exceeding £20. Mr. Smith was then sworn, and fully bore out Mr. Beard's statement. The defendants cross-examined him as to the mode in which he paid them; and it appeared that, although their wages per week were fixed, they were paid for all overtime, and any time they lost was deducted from them. Upon these facts they contended that they were not weekly servants, and not compelled to give any notice whatever. Mr. Alderman Causton said it appeared to him that it was the custom of the trade to give a week's notice. If the complainant had dismissed either of the defendants without notice, he would have sued him for the money. Mr. Smith said about four years ago he did dismiss a man without notice, and he sued him before Mr. Commissioner Kerr, who ordered him to pay the amount and all the costs. Mr. Alderman Owen, having consulted with Mr. Alderman Causton, fined the defendants 50s. each, or, in default, seven days' imprisonment. The fines were not paid.

BAD FISH.—At Clerkenwell, on Tuesday, Dr. Ballard, the medical officer of health for Islington, accompanied by Mr. Dunham, one of the sanitary inspectors, applied to Mr. Cooke for an order for the destruction of a large quantity of codfish which had been seized as unfit for food. Dr. Ballard said the fish had been purchased in Billingsgate Market as fresh, and when it was got home it was found to be quite unfit for food. Under those circumstances the fish was brought to the vestry for condemnation, and a certificate was given to the person who brought the fish that it had been condemned, so that the buyer might get his money from the salesman. In every case but one those who had received a certificate from the parish authorities had recovered the money. It was a great cause of complaint that proper supervision was not exercised at Billingsgate to prevent bad fish from leaving the market, and, owing to the inspectors of that market not doing their duty, great and onerous duties were thrown on the different parish officers. The fish in question was so putrid that it was quite unfit to be brought into court. Mr. Cooke said it was not necessary to see the fish after the evidence, and made an order for its immediate destruction.

A YOUNG INCORRIGIBLE.—At the Thames Police Court, on Wednesday, Frederick William Target, aged ten, was charged with stealing a half-sovereign from his mother. Mr. John Target, the captain of the Albert Victor steam-ship, running between London and Ramsgate, said the prisoner was one of eight children, and that he was very reluctantly compelled to bring him before a magistrate for punishment. He had committed a number of robberies, of which three had been serious. He sent the boy to a boarding-school with two of his brothers, and paid £65 per annum for the three. The schoolmaster requested the removal of the prisoner after he had been with him a few weeks, and said if he was not taken away he must send all three home. The witness sent the prisoner to another school, and he set all discipline at defiance and was again sent home. After a serious transgression the prisoner was confined to a room alone, and after a few days he promised to behave better. He was then permitted to dine with the rest of the family, but on the following day he extracted a purse from his mother's pocket. He took from it half a sovereign and returned the purse without the coin to his mother's pocket. He then disappeared for several days, and when he was again met he was given into custody, on which he made a violent resistance. He said he spent 6s. of the stolen money in sweetmeats, and was robbed of the other 4s. by older boys. Mrs. Emma Target confirmed the statement of her husband in every particular, and said the prisoner had always been kindly treated. In answer to questions by Mr. Benson, the parents of the prisoner said he was a good scholar, and that he would not be eleven years of age until June 24 next. The prisoner said a bigger boy, living in Elizabeth-street, Poplar, had induced him to act as he had done. Mr. Benson was of opinion the only way of saving the boy would be to send him to a reformatory school. Of course the ratepayers would not be saddled with the expense of maintaining him while his parents were in a condition to do so. Mr. Target said he would pay anything that was reasonable. Mr. Benson said he would send the boy to the reformatory school at Feltham for five years, and make an order on his father to pay 7s. 6d. a week for his maintenance. If the boy conducted himself properly, he would have a fresh start in life and be taught a useful trade; but if he behaved ill and would not conform to the rules and regulations of the place, he would be flogged, put to hard tasks, and deprived of a portion of his meals.

A PECCANT PARSON.—The Rev. Charles Robert Henry James, B.A., was brought up on remand before the Cambridge borough magistrates, on Tuesday, on a charge of stealing three spoons from a woman with whom he was lodging in Park-street. He graduated at Trinity College in 1829, and, after taking his degree and receiving ordination, was appointed to the Curacy of Sheffield, in Bedfordshire. He had not been heard of in

Cambridge from that time until very recently, when he came up and took lodgings with the prosecutrix, upon the pretext of his having come into residence for the purpose of taking pupils and occasional Sunday duty. His landlady missed several articles after he had lived a short time with her, including the spoons she had supplied for his breakfast table, and such like, and upon giving information to the police it was found that he had pledged three spoons with a Jew pawnbroker in the town for a shilling each. Nothing was known of him upon the first examination, but since he has been under remand the police have discovered a ticket of leave among his papers, which show that he was convicted of swindling a shopkeeper at Northampton, in October, 1864, and sentenced to five years' penal servitude in Dartmoor prison. A copy of the depositions taken at his trial was found at his lodgings, together with his deacon's and priest's orders, duly signed and sealed. The Bench sent him for trial at the Quarter Sessions.

BENJAMIN HIGGS AND THE GREAT CENTRAL GAS CONSUMERS' COMPANY.

The mystery surrounding Mr. Benjamin Higgs and his operations at the office of the Great Central Gas Consumers' Company and elsewhere will not, it appears, be easily dissipated. Owing to the reticence of the company with respect to the amount of the frauds of their clerk, and the want of energetic action towards ascertaining his whereabouts, and so taking some steps towards securing a satisfaction of justice, rumours even wilder than those which were previously current are now afloat. It is stated that Higgs's defalcations exceed greatly the sums which have been mentioned, and which ranged from £50,000 to £80,000. There is reason to fear, it is said, that £150,000 will scarcely cover the full extent of his depredations upon the company and the public. Not only have large sums received for coke never found their way to the company's bankers; but forged debentures to a considerable amount, it is stated, are afloat, upon which Higgs regularly paid the dividends as they fell due, in order to keep their issue from the company's knowledge. It is also affirmed that these debenture bonds, although issued fraudulently, bear the bona fide signatures of the directors and the common seal of the company; so that detection by the holders was simply a matter of impossibility. The most remarkable circumstance connected with the case is that while, on the one hand, such great facilities were placed in the way of a subordinate clerk for committing fraud, the salary paid to him was considerably less than has been stated. Instead of being £400, as has been reported, it is now stated with a show of confidence that he did not even receive £150 per annum. If this is true the position of Mr. Higgs, with his very small salary, his very large establishment, and his many benefactions, becomes even more anomalous and singular than it appeared to be before. The rumour that Higgs must have taken a large sum of money away with him is likely to prove unfounded. It is known that on the eve of his departure he offered to pay a wine merchant in Coleman-street an account of £800; but, as he also wanted money, he drew a cheque for £600, and, it being past banking hours, he induced the wine merchant to cash it and give him the balance. There is some probability that his estate will realise about £30,000. This the creditors have sought to appropriate for the benefit of all concerned; and the gas company, it is said, are willing to abandon criminal proceedings, and go in with the other creditors and share the £30,000. In this they will, in all probability, be disappointed. The 70th clause of Lord Westbury's Bankruptcy Act, 1861, provides that, if any person, not being a trader, shall, with intent to defeat or delay his creditors, depart the realm, or, being out of the realm, remain abroad, &c., he shall be deemed to have committed an act of bankruptcy; but, before any adjudication in bankruptcy shall be made against the debtor, he must be served personally with a copy of the petition; or, if the creditors are unable to find out his whereabouts, they must prove to the Court that every reasonable effort has been made to serve the debtor, and that the attempts to serve the petition came to the knowledge of the said debtor, and were defeated by his conduct. The result of this is that about £30,000 worth of property is being scrambled for by the creditors and the wife of Higgs, and there is no legal power under the Bankruptcy Act to touch one penny of it. It is believed that Higgs has sought refuge in Spain, with which country England has no extradition treaty.

At Judges' Chambers, on Wednesday, before Mr. Justice Keating, application was made by several claimants in respect to the goods of Benjamin Higgs. The Guarantee Society had seized property at Teddington, under it, it was alleged, an authority to enter the premises. The plaintiff in the action (Mr. Krihi) issued an execution, and the Sheriff of Middlesex, by his officer, took possession. After hearing several claimants, an adjournment to Monday was granted.

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.—In the Sheriff's Court, Red Lion-square, on Tuesday, a suit of "Challis v. Hargreaves" came up for assessment of damages. It was an action tried in the Queen's Bench for breach of promise of marriage. Judgment was allowed to go by default. The damages were laid at £2000. Mr. Digby Seymour, Q.C. (with whom was Mr. Beresford), appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. Serjeant Tindal Atkinson for the defendant. The case came before a special jury, and under the presidency of Mr. Under-Sheriff Burchell. The plaintiff, Miss Jessie May Challis, who appeared by her next friend, is in her twenty-first year, and the defendant twenty-three. She is the orphan daughter of a commercial traveller, and has been, at her own wish, a governess in the family of Mr. Charrington, brewer. The defendant is the son of Mr. Hargreaves, of Leeds, in the wool trade, and, under the will of his father, was entitled to about £14,000. Several letters were read to the jury, and the defendant described himself in his epistles as "Yours for ever, Joe." The engagement was from November, 1867, to June, 1868, when the defendant referred to his health, and declined the intended marriage. The defendant was said to be not in robust health, and it was proved that the

lady had suffered much mental affliction by the breaking off of the match. The young lady discontinued being a governess at the request of the defendant. Mr. Digby Seymour claimed substantial damages for the conduct of the defendant, and many of the witnesses proved that the young lady had good health until the engagement was broken off. The question was as to the amount of compensation to be awarded for the loss the lady had sustained, and the defendant's position showed that he was able to pay for the disappointment the lady had experienced. Mr. Serjeant Tindal Atkinson admitted that it was a case for some damages, but not to a large amount. There was no poetry in money. He complained that in these cases letters were read, and in his opinion there was something indecate in reading them. The jury would bear in mind that it was only a short engagement. The jury assessed the damages at £1000.

THE MALPRACTICES OF ADMIRALTY EMPLOYEES.—The Central Criminal Court was occupied the greater part of Friday week in a most important investigation. Two men, James Thomas Gambier, a Government clerk at Somerset House, and William Humble, also an official, were indicted for obtaining from a contractor, named Maxwell, a sum of money under the pretence of obtaining the acceptance by the Board of Admiralty of a certain tender for the performance of some Government works. The particular interest attaching to this trial arises not altogether from the evidence bringing home guilt to the accused, but from its being the first attempt to punish a system of poundage believed to prevail somewhat extensively, so as to render the theoretically fair custom of contracting a sham. The prisoners were found guilty, and each sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—S. J. D. GALWEY, Captain, Bankrupts.—W. FOX, Hertford, beer-shop-keeper.—W. G. WALKER, Chatham.—C. WILLIAMS, Bermondsey, commission agent.—C. J. TAYLOR, Southwark, carpenter.—J. R. SYMONS, Paddington, surgeon.—J. DELIGHT, Laurence Pountney-lane, tailor.—L. GUN, Leyton, carpenter.—H. G. WALKER, Lewisham, general-shop-keeper.—J. T. NEWSHAM, Pooter-road, coal merchant.—E. BRITCHER, Camberwell, carman.—J. COCKS, Regent-street, tailor.—G. ADAMS, South Lambeth, timber merchant.—H. L. F. C. KNUCH, Clarendon, manufacturer of fancy goods.—G. NOYCE, South-lark, gardener.—F. COLE, Easton-street, squares, labourer.—E. M. COPPINGER, St. Giles, victualler.—J. OLIVER, Notting-hill.—C. GODBER, Aekman-road, West-bourne Park, builder.—F. STOKES, Lower Kensington-lane, book-keeper.—G. COOKE, Bermondsey.—T. C. DE WATERFORD, Shepherd's-bush, commission agent.—G. W. JAMES, jun., West-london, Chancery-lane, auctioneer.—R. DARLING, Lamb's Conduit-street.—H. GRAVELEY, Upper Tooting, cabinet-maker.—E. SIMMS, Denmark-hill.—J. FLEMING, Bishopsgate-street.—R. F. FEMBERTON, Arlington-street, Mornington-crescent.—D. DEATH, Walton-on-the-Hill, lodging-house keeper.—T. D. GLENN, St. Giles, victualler.—W. ROE, St. Giles, jobbing gardener.—J. BATCHELOR, New Barnet.—B. ILINSKI, A-bany-street, Regent's Park, teacher of foreign languages.—J. BARKS, Barking-road, shipwright.—G. ADDY, Newcastle-under-Lyme, coal and ironstone master.—T. STONE, Derby, auctioneer.—T. CORRY, Long Leys, medical practitioner.—R. CHAMBERS, Birmingham, gun implement wood-turner.—W. BIRTLES, Derby, silk throwster.—E. MORRISONS, and H. VERNULUX, Swans, shipchandlers.—J. MORSPOLL, Cheltenham, licensed victualler.—J. ARCHER, Bristol, tailor.—G. DOWELL, Clifton, bank manager.—G. W. FLUCH, Cheltenham, tobacconist.—G. LEE, Exeter, licensed victualler.—F. BARLOW, Leeds, pork butcher.—W. R. A. HUSBAND, Devonport, printer.—T. MILLER, jun., Alfreton, mine agent.—R. PITT, Sheffield, theatrical manager.—R. ATKINSON, Liverpool, joiner.—J. EMMANION, Birkenhead, keeper of the Post-office, attached to the Post-office Hotel.—R. HUGHES, Denbigh, grocer.—R. T. BIRKETT, Liverpool, merchant.—J. M. EVANS, Liverpool, clerk.—T. W. LAWSON and R. M. EASTMAN, Liverpool, shipbrokers.—J. J. BROWN, Liverpool.—D. BENTLEY, Hoots.—A. PERGUSON, Wigan, cooper.—J. CHAPMAN, Burnley, cooper.—J. LOWNDES, Congleton, ironfounder.—W. WALKER, Barrow-in-Furness.—J. DODWORTH, Sheffield, table-blade forger.—T. HUMPHREY, Hursley, watchmaker.—G. BAGSHAW, Canuton, blacksmith.—G. AUTCLIFF, North Muskham, contractor.—J. HAYES, South Bedford, horsebreaker.—R. SOANES, Lowestoft, butcher.—S. BOWERBANK, Dalton-in-Furness, boat and shoe maker.—G. WALTON, Bloxwich, hairdresser.—O. JONES, Penrath, innkeeper.—J. ALDERSON, Esh, butcher.—R. FLYNN, Liverpool, staymaker.—T. BICKERTON, Manchester, cooper.—P. HOLLOWAY, Liverpool, greengrocer.—J. HARRIS, Liverpool, grocer.—W. BOTTRELL, Canby, innkeeper.—C. PEARCE, Harleston, publican.—W. G. BUZORER, Whitstable, free dredger.—W. BURTON, Alfreton, slater.—G. HODSON, Southern, carpenter.—J. GIBSON, Congleton, sawyer.—A. TURNER, Kelsigh, labourer.—W. JAYE, Llanfair, J. WALKER, Birkenhead, wheelwright.—H. DAVIES, Llanfair, J. T. MACKENZIE, Wolverhampton, commercial traveller.—G. GOUGH, Wolverhampton, grocer.—D. ROSE, jun., Golden-hill, clerk.—J. ALSON, Gold Hill, stone-dealer.—J. DILTON, Cambridge, blacksmith.—S. BEAGLEY, Addlestone, bricklayer.—F. DORRINGTON, Southwark, wheelwright.—GEO. BOW, clerk.—J. W. STOKES, Birkenhead, hardware-dealer.—G. B. GROGAN, Manchester, fishdealer.—W. GRACE, Whit-church, innkeeper.—J. H. WILLS, Jernyn-street, St. James's, lodging-house keeper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. GRAY, Elginhaugh, medical practitioner.—J. COBQUODALE and STEWART, Port Glasgow, cooper.—J. CURE and SMITH, Glasgow, ironfounders.—A. SAITH, Glasgow, spirit merchant.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—G. H. BROOK, Huddersfield, sharebroker.—E. DOWNS, Wye, farming bailiff.

BANKRUPTS.—R. CLARKE, Ratcliffe-croft, victualler.—W. BYRAM, Paddington, stone merchant.—J. GULLIN, jun., Clearwell, butcher.—E. M. BOALE, Brompton.—J. CLEMENT, Mayfair, carpenter.—J. EMMERTON, Emsay, cooper.—J. BERNFIELD, St. George's-in-the-East, clothier.—J. EASEY, Islington, cheesemonger.—J. GRIMSIAH, Newmarket, jockey.—J. THURTELL, Ludham, farmer.—J. P. FERRIS, Chingford, engineer.—J. MATTS, Peckham, builder.—W. CRUDGE, Mortlake, baker.—T. FALCONER, Stratford, clerk.—G. HARR, Woking, coach-builder.—T. J. MORRIS, Old Ford, hardware factor.—W. M. R. PRICE, Chancery-lane, rosemaker.—C. KNIGHT, Kingston-on-Thames, beer-shop-keeper.—G. EYRES, Brandon, carpenter.—G. HOLMES, Guildford, builder.—W. SMITH, Clarendon.—H. R. COBUS, Guildford.—H. KELSON, Southampton, draper.—J. PETER, Tring.—H. J. HAMMOND, Hornchurch, builder.—G. EDWARDS, Paddington, grocer.—G. MELBOURNE, Lendenhall-street, merchant.—A. BRAND, Paddington, licensed victualler.—F. WHITE, Harwell, draper.—S. JACKSON, Long-sore, licensed victualler.—W. J. JACK, Poplar, clerk.—W. BROWN, St. Giles, leather dealer.—E. G. PHILLIPS, Groydon.—G. RUTHVEN, St. John's wood, baker.—W. E. ROBERTS, Kentish Town, clerk.—M. LAMBERT, Okeford Fitzpaine, farmer.—E. BAKER, York-place, Portman-square, surgeon.—P. MAGGS, Bristol, bookbinder.—J. E. PROCTOR, Bristol, licensed victualler.—R. MORRIS, Devon, shoemaker.—J. R. MANN, Plymouth, accountant.—S. A. NICHOL, Kirkcubright, innkeeper.—G. WYATT, Plymouth, auctioneer.—R. P. and J. HATTERSLEY, Brighton, ironfounders.—J. CRABTREE and G. NEWELL, Bradford, cotton manufacturers.—J. THORNTON, Hopton, grocer.—W. E. WALTON and J. W. HARPER, Leeds, carriers.—J. SLATER, Rawmarsh, grocer.—P. MAGEE, Liverpool, cotton-dealer.—G. and R. E. BROWNLOW, Kingston-on-Hull, timber merchants.—R. ROBERTS, Beaumarie, farmer.—J. MARSH, St. Helen, innkeeper.—T. VAUGHAN, Liverpool, draper.—J. and M. MEILOR, Hyde, machinists.—G. GILLIES, Manchester, upholsterer.—W. SMITH, jun., Wigan.—R. POSTLETHWAITE, Ramepide, farmer.—H. YOUNG, Guildford, harness-maker.—S. DAWSON, Manchester, provision-dealer.—J. OATES, Wiltshire, builder.—R. TAYLOR, Darlington, provision merchant.—W. OXFORD, Hartwood, clerk.—W. CARLE, Dewsbury.—W. H. BLAKE, Sheffield, manager of steelworks.—J. KELSON, Christchurch, baker.—J. T. JOHNSON, Christchurch, grocer.—J. ABREY, Coggeshall, harness-maker.—T. HIGGINS, Walsall, grocer.—E. VADGE, Bath, milliner.—E. NORMAN, Northampton, butcher.—W. FLETCHER, Pontypool, beer-shop-keeper.—R. POTTS, Addingham, stonecrafter.—W. NEWTON, Tiverton, butcher.—T. JONES, Llangollen, barnman.—R. GOODALE, Ems, potato-dealer.—J. M'INN, Manchester, painter.—M. ROSS, Manchester, boot and shoe maker.—J. YOUNG, Barnworth, bookkeeper.—W. GIFFEY, Bristol, grocer.—G. DAVIES, Hulse, furniture remover.—J. FORD, Bridgewater, labourer.—J. S. BIRD, Aiford, baker.—G. REDFORD, Liverpool, butcher.—J. LAWLEY, Maldenhead, licensed victualler.—J. GILKES, Henley, cattle-dealer.—G. F. DORRINGTON, Southampton, grocer.—S. ANDREW, Ashton-under-Lyne, watch-dealer.—S. SKEMPTON, Northampton, riveter.—W. S. DICKINSON, Halifax, yeast-dealer.—E. LEWIS, Newbury.—J. KEY, Longton.—R. STEVENS, St. Asaph, cattle-dealer.—R. KENT, Hastings.—T. WEAVER, Penzance, soda-water manufacturer.—J. LAMBERT, King's Norton, commercial traveller.—T. HILL, Caid-head, surgeon.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—W. RITCHIE and T. M. DEYSDALE, Glasgow, manufacturers.—A. TODD, Edinburgh, later.—P. M'ISAAC, Strouan, farmer.—N. CURRIE, Glasgow, grocer.—R. MILLER and SON, Glasgow, contractors.—A. FORBES, Aberdeen, preserved provision manufacturer.—J. M'EAHERN, Arising, general merchant.

